

# Colleges addressing needs of work force

By Ellie Ashford, Community College Times

□Competency-based education (CBE) can be valuable in ensuring community colleges provide the right kind of training to get people into the job market quickly with the skills employers need.

That's the consensus of higher education leaders at a forum on community colleges and CBE on Monday hosted by the New America Foundation and co-sponsored by the foundation, the American Association of Community Colleges, Western Governors University and the American Council on Education.

The essence of CBE is "flipping time and mastery," said Sally Johnstone, vice president of academic advancement at WGU. Under the traditional education model, everyone starts a course at the same time and finishes at the same time. Some students master the material, and some don't.

With CBE, everyone masters the material, although some take longer to do so, said Johnstone, who describes CBE as "a platform that enables individualized learning."

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