

## **SER National Offers Scholarships for Online HS Diploma Completion with Career Training as its Clinton Global Initiative “Commitment to Action”**

*Summary: SER National to provide scholarships to Career Online High School to combat the dropout rate among underserved populations in the communities it serves across the country.*

Irving, TX: National non-profit corporation SER National has announced that it will join Smart Horizons Career Online Education and ed2go’s Commitment to Action through the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI). The Commitment to Action includes a scholarship-matching program that will benefit members of underserved populations served by SER National, enabling them to earn high school diplomas at the Career Online High School (COHS). Over time, SER National plans to make 100 total scholarships available through the commitment.

“One of our major interests, our internal call to action, is to address the silent epidemic of high school dropouts in the United States, especially among minority communities and among males,” said Ignacio Salazar, CEO for SER National. “The CGI commitment provides an opportunity to do this.”

SER National began offering the COHS program in 2012 through its SER Career Academy. SER, which stands for “Service, Employment, Redevelopment,” helps Hispanics and other underserved people achieve economic freedom and self-sufficiency through employment and education initiatives. SER National currently oversees a network of community-based organizations in more than 200 cities in 16 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. Within this extensive network, SER serves over 1.2 million people each year.

“COHS has worked very well for our clientele, especially within certain programs we sponsor,” said Salazar. “Offering COHS has been another piece of the larger pie of programs we’ve launched that are geared toward a comprehensive approach to the problem of young people dropping out of school and falling off the map.”

The Career Online High School provides affordable, career-based online education opportunities targeting the millions of people in the United States without high school diplomas. It is part of the world’s first SACS accredited online school district, Smart Horizons Career Online Education, which founded the school in 2012 in partnership with ed2go, the nation’s largest provider of turnkey online training and part of Cengage Learning. Students attending COHS earn both an accredited high school diploma and credentialed career certificate in one comprehensive program.

Smart Horizons Career Online Education and ed2go recently created a Commitment to Action through the Clinton Global Initiative, a nonprofit organization dedicated to finding innovative solutions to the world's most pressing challenges, including the national dropout

crisis. As part of this agreement, Smart Horizons Career Online Education and ed2go have engaged both private and non-profit corporations to offer high school scholarships to combat the dropout (and jobless) rates within the communities they serve. Other organizations that have partnered on the Commitment to Action

include Taco Bell, Brown Mackie College, the Los Angeles Public Library, Project Hope Alliance and Kinexus Workforce Development Organization.

“Through the Clinton Global Initiative Commitment to Action, we are now looking to offer additional scholarships to enable more people to go through COHS and earn their diplomas and career certificates,” said Salazar. “CGI helps get our efforts onto an international platform that increases visibility and the possibility of acquiring matching funds for scholarships. It’s all part of our strategy to provide opportunities for the people we serve.”

### **About SER National**

Established in 1964, SER National is a private nonprofit corporation that helps Hispanics and other underserved people achieve economic freedom and self-sufficiency through employment, education and empowerment. SER National currently oversees a network of community-based organizations in more than 200 cities in 16 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. Within this extensive network, SER serves over 1.2 million people each year. COHS has been offered through an online program called Ser Career Academy that is made available throughout the SER National network. For more information contact Brian Marques (bmarques@ser-national.org) or call 469-549-3694.

### **About CGI America**

The Clinton Global Initiative (CGI), an initiative of the Clinton Foundation, convenes global leaders to create and implement innovative solutions to the world’s most pressing challenges. Established in June 2011 by President Bill Clinton, the Clinton Global Initiative America (CGI America) addresses economic recovery in the United States. CGI America brings together leaders in business, government, and civil society to generate and implement commitments to create jobs, stimulate economic growth, foster innovation, and support workforce development in the United States. Since its first meeting, CGI America participants have made over 300 commitments valued at more than \$15 billion when fully funded and implemented. To learn more, visit [cgiamerica.org](http://cgiamerica.org).