



130 Institutions Scaling Student Success Across the Nation

Public university leaders have spent years creating and testing solutions to help students succeed in college, complete their degrees, and be well-prepared for the workforce. These efforts have achieved significant success at individual institutions, but have not been fully brought to scale across the public higher education sector.

That's why 130 institutions are joining together to increase college access, student equity, and postsecondary attainment. The initiative, called



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The participating institutions will work within “clusters” of four to 12 institutions that concurrently implement innovative and effective practices to advance student success on their campuses. In addition to committing to those goals, participating institutions have pledged to share aggregate data demonstrating their progress to help spur lasting change across the higher education sector.

By design, the institutions in the effort reflect a wide array of institutional characteristics such as enrollment, student demographics, regional workforce needs, and selectivity. The broad diversity of the institutions is intended to help create a playbook of adaptable student success reforms that can be adopted and scaled up across a variety of institution types – including those with limited resources.

The clusters have identified anticipated focus areas for their work. One cluster, for example, expects to work collaboratively to integrate data collection systems across each of their campuses to better monitor student progress and make data-informed decisions. Another cluster expects to tackle financial aid and student financial literacy, while a separate cluster is planning to work to integrate career advising early into a student’s academic journey to both speed students’ path to a degree and better prepare them for the workforce.

The effort will be overseen by APLU’s [Center for Public University Transformation](#), which the association created this year to help drive transformational change across the public higher education sector. A core value of the Center and its participating institutions will be rooted in a commitment to sharing data and innovative, successful practices to help drive progress across the entire sector of public higher education. The Center will regularly disseminate lessons learned from the participating institutions to the broader public higher education community.

A national advisory council of respected higher education thought leaders will provide a strategic vision and guidance for the Center, which will work to build upon and complement existing initiatives around institutional change and student success.

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As the nation’s oldest higher education association, APLU has built strong relationships with public research universities and university systems located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, four U.S. territories, Canada, and Mexico. Annually, its 197 U.S. member campuses enroll 4.1 million undergraduates and 1.2 million graduate students, award 1.1 million degrees, employ 1.1 million faculty and staff, and conduct \$42.4 billion in university-based research.

APLU has extensive experience creating networks with other organizations that extend beyond its membership, and has a proven track record of working across funders and institution types. The association has a strong collaborative orientation, with leadership committed to organizational change and professional staff skilled at managing network-structured learning activities. Finally, our diverse revenue sources, which include membership fees, grants, and sponsorships, will ensure the long-term sustainability of the effort.

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- ➔ Produce hundreds of thousands more degrees by 2025
 - ➔ Eliminate the achievement gap while expanding access
 - ➔ Share key data and evidence-based practices to help drive institutional change across campuses.
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For more information on this APLU initiative, please contact the following people:

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