



APLU'S

POWERED BY PUBLICS

SCALING STUDENT SUCCESS

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 **Powered by Publics: Scaling Student Success**, represents the largest ever collaborative effort to improve college access, advance equity, and increase college degrees awarded.

To achieve this vision, APLU is the convening 130-change ready institutions within 16 "transformation clusters" – reaching three million undergraduate students, including one million Pell Grant recipients. Each cluster will focus on solving different pieces of the student success puzzle as public universities work together to tear down long-standing barriers, eliminate the achievement gap, reduce costs for students, prepare students to thrive in the 21st century workforce, and collectively increase the number of degrees they award.

Public research universities share a commitment to providing students from all backgrounds an affordable, high-quality education that aligns with workforce needs. APLU is working with the institutions in the transformation clusters to facilitate a collaborative community of learning so the entire public higher education community can identify and adopt evidence-based practices that drive progress toward equity and college completion.

GOALS

Specifically, the transformation clusters will help 130 public institutions collectively work to:

1. Award hundreds of thousands more degrees by 2025.
2. Eliminate the achievement gap for low-income, minority, and first-generation students, while expanding access to higher education for these students.
3. Share key data and evidence-based practices to help drive institutional change across higher education.

Project Highlights



130 change-ready institutions



16 transformation clusters



3 million undergraduates, including 1 million Pell Grant recipients

APPROACH

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.

WHY APLU?

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.

Project Goals

- ➔ 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.

— Learn More —

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