



Coalition of
Urban Serving Universities

ANNUAL REPORT

AUGUST
2022

BY THE NUMBERS

2021-2022

42

Urban Universities

1.2M

Students served

26

States

41%

**Pell-eligible
Students**

15K

**Average Student
Debt compared to
\$39k nationally**

49%

**Students of Color
(non-white)**

18%

**Undergraduate
Adult Learners
(>25)**

60%

**Average 6-Year
FTFT Graduation
Rate**

83%

**Average FTFT
Retention Rate**

MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

FRESNO STATE
Discovery. Diversity. Distinction.



California State University
Northridge

Cleveland State
University
engaged learning

FIU
FLORIDA
INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY

Georgia State
University

Ψ
IUPUI

KEAN

MORGAN
STATE UNIVERSITY



Portland State
UNIVERSITY

RUTGERS
UNIVERSITY | NEWARK

SJSU SAN JOSÉ STATE
UNIVERSITY

SUNY
DOWNSTATE
Health Sciences University



O
THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY

The
University
of Akron

THE UNIVERSITY OF
TOLEDO
1872

UNIVERSITY
AT **ALBANY**
State University of New York

UAB
THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM
Knowledge that will change your world

UC
RIVERSIDE

UCF
UNIVERSITY OF
CENTRAL FLORIDA

UNIVERSITY OF
CU
Cincinnati

Denver
CU IN THE CITY

UNIVERSITY of
HOUSTON

UIC
UNIVERSITY
OF ILLINOIS
AT CHICAGO

UMASS
BOSTON

THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS

UNLV

THE UNIVERSITY of
NEW MEXICO



UNC CHARLOTTE

UNT
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS*

UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

UNIVERSITY OF
TEXAS
ARLINGTON



UTSA

W
UNIVERSITY of
WASHINGTON
TACOMA

UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN
MILWAUKEE

VCU

WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY

WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY

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A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS & FUNDERS!

Completion Grants

In partnership with: The Hope Center and Temple University.

Funded by: The Department of Education



Collaborative Opportunity Grant

Funded by: Michael and Susan Dell Foundation



Equity Transfer Initiative

In partnership with: American Association of Community Colleges

Funded by: Ascendium and ECMC



Frontier Set

Funded by: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation



Partnerships for Adult Learner Success

Funded by: Lumina Foundation



Student Experience Project

Funded by: Raikes Foundation



A grayscale background image showing a close-up of a graduation cap (mortarboard) and the top of a graduation gown. The cap is dark with a tassel hanging from it. The gown is light-colored. The image is partially obscured by a dark vertical band on the right side, which serves as a backdrop for the text.

OUR PROFILE

The Coalition of Urban-Serving Universities (USU) is a president-led organization committed to enhancing urban university engagement and tackling key urban challenges in our nation's cities. With a membership of 42 public, urban research universities across 26 states, USU's agenda focuses on: 21st century workforce, advancing racial justice and equity, health equity, and equitable student success. Annually, member campuses enroll over 1 million students, confer 276,000 degrees, employ 195,000 faculty and staff, and conduct \$4.6 billion in university research. USU has partnered with the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) to establish the APLU Office of Urban Initiatives, and remains in permanent partnership with APLU to jointly lead an urban agenda for the nation's public universities.

OUR MISSION

The Coalition of Urban Serving Universities (USU) is a university president-led organization committed to achieving equitable and sustainable economic, health, and educational outcomes for historically marginalized and disenfranchised student populations on campus and within our urban communities.

ADVANCING RACIAL JUSTICE & EQUITY (ARJE)

Overview:

The USU Racial Justice and Equity Scholars are a select group of leaders from urban-serving universities who are launching and measuring the impact of initiatives centered on advancing racial justice and equity on their campus and in their communities. The Scholar community will meet four times through 2023 to 1) build capacity to strengthen and measure impact, 2) learn from and alongside peer Scholars as they implement their initiatives, and 3) co-create roadmap for urban university equity-based initiatives, policies, and structures.

RJE Scholars:



[click above to watch their winning presentations](#)

What's Next:

Scholars will showcase initiative results and disseminate Roadmap resources at an ARJE event Summer 2023.

USU Staff:

[Christel Perkins, Ed.D.](#)

Deputy Exec. Director, USU
AVP, Urban Initiatives, APLU

ACCESS TO COMPLETION

Equity Transfer Initiative

Overview:

The Equity Transfer Initiative is a partnership between community colleges and universities to advance transfer pathways and align them to increase transfer and completion for underrepresented student populations. The ETI aims to serve 6,000 students from the identified underrepresented groups over the two-year project period. Funded by ECMC Foundation and Ascendium Education Group, each team must place at least 100 students on one of five identified transfer pathways by the end of the first year and 300 or more total by the end of the second year.

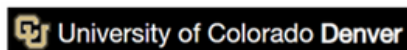
Participating Members:

Sixteen partnerships from 13 states representing 17 community colleges and 19 universities were selected to participate. Five USU members are participating:



TULSA

CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY
engaged learning



WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY

What's Next:

USU will continue to build on this work and conceptualize a phase two for equitable transfer student success where the existing program maps begin to prepare and connect students to the workforce.

USU Staff:

Ashlie Prioleau, Ed.D.

Executive Director, USU

VP, Urban Initiatives, APLU

Partnerships for Adult Learner Success (PALS)

Overview:

Partnerships for Adult Learner Success (PALS) is a 3 year, \$986,000 grant funded by the Lumina Foundation, whose goals are to innovate and build more inclusive, agile, and comprehensive student success pathways and supports that center on adult learners of color.

Participating Members:



What's Next:

Year 2 of the grant involves universities creating and sharpening equity plans for their pilot projects with the goal of articulating the impact and effectiveness of their interventions on Black, Latinx and Indigenous adult learners. Along with reporting on success metrics, grantees will craft an action-based deliverable (e.g., policy recommendation, practice change, campaign) to promote institutional change based on their findings.

USU Staff:

Christel Perkins, Ed.D.

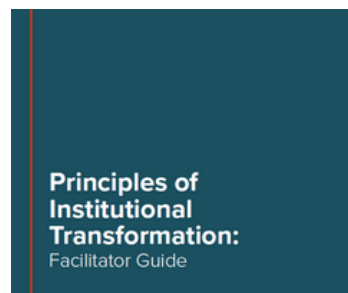
Deputy Exec. Director, USU
AVP, Urban Initiatives, APLU

UNIVERSITY TRANSFORMATION

Overview:

Funded through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Frontier Set project looks to increase student success and erase attainment gaps by supporting universities accelerate transformation. Transformation is the realignment of an institution's structures, culture, and business model to create a student experience that results in dramatic and equitable increases in outcomes and educational Value. The Frontier Set is a select group of high-performing, high-potential colleges, universities, state systems, and supporting organizations that are committed to eliminating race, ethnicity, and income as predictors of student success by transforming how they operate.

University Impact:



Principles of Institutional Transformation Online Open Access Course Module

What's Next:

- Organizational Case Study: The Role of Urban Serving University Identity and it's Intersection with Transformation
- University Transformation Pitch Competition: APLU November 2022 Annual Meeting

USU Staff:

Andréa Rodriguez, Ed.D.
Director, USU

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Overview

The Student Experience Project is a collaborative network of public universities and national organizations committed to accelerating the adoption of innovative, evidence-based practices that improve student academic outcomes by transforming the college student experience and creating equitable learning environments. The project is supported by a \$3.5 million grant from the Raikes Foundation. Nearly 300 instructors across the SEP cohort introduced changes to the classroom to support social belonging and convey growth mindset.

Participating Members:

Student Experience Project Cohort



Peer Learning Network: Florida International University, Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis, Morgan State University, North Carolina A&T State University, Rutgers University – Newark, University of Illinois at Chicago, University of North Texas, University of Texas at San Antonio, Wayne State University

University Impact:

- Over 1100 individuals from over 600 institutions used SEP resources developed by USU since April 2022.
- Students report more positive experiences in their courses when SEP practices are used. In Fall 2021, the percent of student reporting an overall positive student experience increased by 9.8% Analysis of student grades in SEP courses demonstrates that as students' experiences improve, their likelihood of receiving an A or B in the course increases.



SEP Report

SEP Resource Hub

Over two dozen tools and resources institutions can use to improve student experience.



USU Staff:

[Samantha Levine, M.A.](#)

Associate Director, USU

[Jennifer Danek, M.D.](#)

Senior Strategic Advisor

Director of SEP Partnerships

WORKFORCE

Collaborative Opportunity Grant (COG)

Overview:

COG is a 3 year, \$1,084,000 grant designed to support emerging and/or innovative university-community partnerships that transform institutional practices, programs, policies, and culture to improve 21st Century skills delivery, acquisition and transferability to the workforce, with a particular interest in low-income, first time in college (FTIC) or transfer students.

The principal goals are to:

1. Identify and move equity-based innovations that address 21st Century Skills development from niche areas on campus and/or pilot stages, to scale internally and eventually externally;
2. Increase the adaptation of innovative approaches that more effectively connect learning (e.g., curriculum, experiences) to workforce needs; and
3. Create and fortify partnerships that bring new resources and support necessary changes that sustain and scale innovation.

Participating Members:



What's Next:

As Cohorts 2 and 3 conclude their work, we will onboard a mini cohort of 4 additional universities to scale the learnings from the original cohorts and test out new 21st Century Skills innovations.

USU Staff:

Christel Perkins, Ed.D.

Deputy Exec. Director, USU
AVP, Urban Initiatives, APLU

Andréa Rodriguez, Ph.D.

Director, USU

21st Century Workforce Working Group

Overview:

We aim to drive a cultural and conversational shift that:

- Reaffirms the value proposition of universities.
- Prepares traditional and non-traditional learners with employer and labor market demands.

Participating Members:

- All USU Members have a member in the 21st Century Workforce group.

What's Next:

- Fail Festival: A celebration of failure as a mark of leadership, innovation, and risk-taking in pushing the boundaries of what is possible in scaling ideas from pilots to programs related to workforce efforts.
- Pathways & Disruption: Charles Koch Foundation
- A.L.I.C.E Population Concept: Strada Education Network
- APLU Annual Meeting: Reset & Restart Meeting

USU Staff:

Andréa Rodriguez, Ed.D.

Director, USU

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Health Equity

As an outgrowth of the Advancing Racial Justice and Equity (ARJE) Initiative, USU kicked off a series of meetings with a Health Equity Action Group in 2021 comprised of 15 member institutions. The group's work centered on defining ways that USU's can advance health equity through health literacy. Over the course of the year, HEAG members met several times to learn from each other's work, provide input into a common conceptual frame for health literacy, and explore opportunities for collaborative work. UT Arlington also shared its work on community engagement for COVID-19 literacy which it continues through the ARJE scholar community. As USU completes its strategic planning process for 2022-25, we will identify additional opportunities for member collaboration to advance health equity goals.

Completion Grants

This project is a randomized control trial, funded by the US Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences, with Temple University's Hope Center as the grantee. Participating universities distribute completion grants to experiment group and measure impact of the grant on time to degree, credit accumulation, and graduation rate for four years. USU acts as a sub contractor to manage university participation and contribute to data analysis and dissemination.

As of summer 2022, the grant is on pause by the request of IES and Temple University.

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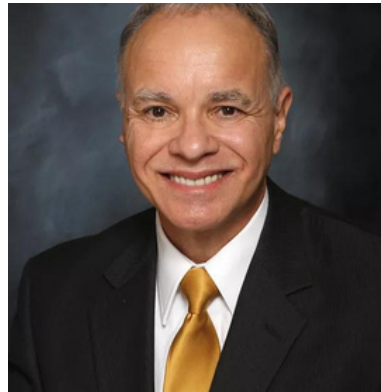


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GET INVOLVED

Interested in joining the Coalition of Urban Serving Universities? Please visit our [website](#) and complete this [virtual form](#).

Contact Ashlie Prioleau, Ed.D. at aprioleau@aplu.org if you have any questions.

