



Project Degree Completion: A Public University Initiative *Commitment Statement*

We the undersigned members of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) affirm our commitment to accessible, affordable and quality public higher education for all students.

We commit to increasing the number of undergraduate baccalaureate degrees by 3.8 million between now and 2025 while striving to provide those students with a quality education. We further commit to containing per student educational cost while pursuing enhanced quality.

We call for a renewed partnership among public colleges and universities, the states and the federal government as we work to achieve these goals.

We commit to the following:

- To strive for the “best in the world” degree status for America. Public colleges and universities will do our part to achieve 60 percent degree attainment by awarding an additional 3.8 million baccalaureate degrees by 2025. We will publicly track progress toward this goal.
- To make a concerted effort to reach out to former students who have attended our institutions but who have not earned a baccalaureate degree from any institution.
- To assure that educational quality is enhanced, not compromised, in the effort to increase degree attainment.
- To uphold the principles of student access, success and diversity in this pursuit.
- To reduce the average time to degree for our students.
- To constrain per-student educational expenditures while pursuing enhanced quality.
- To work closely with P-12 systems and community colleges, especially in the STEM fields and other areas of critical need.
- To support economic growth in our regions, states and country including research and innovation, commercialization of technologies, and economic development. For many institutions, this will include increasing graduates in areas of critical need including STEM fields.*

These commitments will be achieved with a strong, renewed partnership among the states, the federal government and public colleges and universities, but there is significant work to be done. During the past 20 years, many states have maintained tight, regulatory institutional oversight while per student investment in public higher education steadily declined until 2008 when the decline accelerated, in part, because of the recession. During this same period, public colleges and universities contained per student educational expenditures to about the rate of inflation. These circumstances forced public institutions to raise tuition to compensate for the significant loss of state dollars. The total educational expenditures per student have been stable for many years, but the mix of student tuition versus state appropriations has shifted dramatically and continues to deteriorate. This trend must be reversed for public colleges and universities to continue to meet their obligations as institutions of public purpose. In short, the full partnership between public colleges and universities, the states and the federal government needs to be reestablished with each partner fulfilling its responsibilities.

The states must provide sufficient appropriations to support students and the discovery of new knowledge while extending greater operational flexibility for public colleges and universities.

The federal government must maintain its: commitment to student financial aid; support for research and innovation; and encouragement of states to continue their support for public colleges and universities.

Public colleges and universities must be more innovative in the performance of their essential roles while containing educational expenditures.

Education, including research, is the only public investment that provides both a social and an economic return. Policymakers need tangible evidence that public higher education is transforming to meet economic and educational needs. Achieving these commitments will ensure greater economic security for America and the next generation of citizens.

** AASCU and APLU understand that some individual institutions may not be able to contribute to these commitments to the same degree as others because of their particular circumstances, but we expect that the overall commitments will be met.*

List of Participating Institutions (Oct. 1, 2012)

Adams State University	California State University, California Maritime Academy
Alabama A&M University	California State University, Channel Islands
Alabama State University	California State University, Chico
Alcorn State University	California State University, Dominguez Hills
Angelo State University	California State University, East Bay
Appalachian State University	California State University, Fresno
Arizona State University	California State University, Fullerton
Arkansas State University Jonesboro	California State University, Long Beach
Arkansas State University System	California State University, Los Angeles
Arkansas Tech University	California State University, Monterey Bay
Armstrong Atlantic State University	California State University, Northridge
Athens State University	California State University, Sacramento
Auburn University	California State University, San Bernardino
Auburn University at Montgomery	California State University, San Marcos
Augusta State University	California State University, Stanislaus
Austin Peay State University	California University of Pennsylvania
Ball State University	Cameron University
Bemidji State University	Castleton State College
Binghamton University, SUNY	Central Connecticut State University
Black Hills State University	Central Michigan University
Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania	Central State University
Bluefield State College	Central Washington University
Boise State University	Cheyney University of Pennsylvania
Bowie State University	City College of New York
Bowling Green State University	City University of New York (CUNY)
Buffalo State College, SUNY	City University of New York, Brooklyn College
California Polytechnic State University	City University of New York, College of Staten Island
California State Polytechnic University Pomona	City University of New York, Lehman College
California State University, Bakersfield	

City University of New York, Medgar Evers College
City University of New York, Queens College
City University of New York, York College
Clarion University
Clayton State University
Clemson University
Cleveland State University
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University
Columbus State University
Concord University
Connecticut Board of Regents for Higher Education
Coppin State University
Cornell University
Dakota State University
Dalton State University
Delaware State University
Delta State University
Dickinson State University
Dixie State College of Utah
East Central University
East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania
Eastern Connecticut State University
Eastern Illinois University
Eastern Kentucky University
Eastern Oregon University
Eastern Washington University
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania
Emporia State University
Fairmont State University
Farmingdale State College, SUNY
Fayetteville State University
Ferris State University
Fitchburg State University
Florida Atlantic University
Florida Gulf Coast University
Florida International University
Fort Hays State University
Fort Lewis College
Framingham State University
Francis Marion University
Frostburg State University
George Mason University
Georgia College & State University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Georgia Southern University
Georgia Southwestern State University
Georgia State University
Glenville State College

Governors State University
Grambling State University
Grand Valley State University
Harris-Stowe State University
Henderson State University
Humboldt State University
Idaho State University
Illinois Board of Higher Education
Illinois State University
Indiana State University
Indiana University
Indiana University East
Indiana University Kokomo
Indiana University Northwest
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Indiana University South Bend
Indiana University Southeast
Indiana University-Purdue University
Indianapolis
Iowa State University
Jackson State University
James Madison University
Johnson State College
Kansas State University
Keene State College
Kennesaw State University
Kent State University
Kentucky State University
Kutztown University of Pennsylvania
Lamar University
Lander University
Lewis-Clark State College
Lincoln University (Missouri)
Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania
Longwood University
Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College
Louisiana State University Shreveport
Louisiana State University System
Louisiana Tech University
Lyndon State College
Macon State College
Mansfield University of Pennsylvania
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA)
Mayville State University
McNeese State University
Metropolitan State University
Metropolitan State University of Denver
Miami University
Michigan State University
Michigan Technological University

Middle Tennessee State University
Millersville University of Pennsylvania
Minnesota State Colleges & Universities
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Minnesota State University, Moorhead
Minot State University
Mississippi Board of Trustees of State
Institutions of Higher Learning
Mississippi State University
Mississippi University for Women
Mississippi Valley State University
Missouri Southern State University
Missouri State University
Missouri University of Science and Technology
Missouri Western State University
Montana State University
Montana State University-Northern
Montana Tech of the University of Montana
Montclair State University
Morehead State University
Morgan State University
Murray State University
Nevada State College
New College of Florida
New Jersey Association of State Colleges &
Universities
New Jersey City University
New Jersey Institute of Technology
New Mexico Highlands University
New Mexico State University
Nicholls State University
Norfolk State University
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State
University
North Carolina Central University
North Carolina State University
North Dakota State University
North Dakota University System
North Georgia College & State University
Northeastern Illinois University
Northeastern State University
Northern Arizona University
Northern Illinois University
Northern Kentucky University
Northern New Mexico College
Northern State University
Northwest Missouri State University
Northwestern Oklahoma State University
Northwestern State University of Louisiana
Ohio University
Oklahoma Panhandle State University

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
Oklahoma State University
Old Dominion University
Oregon Institute of Technology
Oregon State University
Oregon University System
Penn State University
Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education
Pittsburg State University
Plymouth State University
Portland State University
Prairie View A&M University
Purchase College, SUNY
Purdue University
Purdue University Calumet
Purdue University North Central
Radford University
Ramapo College of New Jersey
Rhode Island College
Rogers State University
Rowan University
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Saginaw Valley State University
Salem State University
Salisbury University
Sam Houston State University
San Diego State University
San Francisco State University
San Jose State University
Savannah State University
Shawnee State University
Shepherd University
Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania
Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania
Sonoma State University
South Carolina State University
South Dakota Board of Regents
South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
South Dakota State University
Southeast Missouri State University
Southeastern Louisiana University
Southeastern Oklahoma State University
Southern Arkansas University
Southern Connecticut State University
Southern Illinois University
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Southern Oregon University
Southern Polytechnic State University
Southern University at New Orleans
Southwest Minnesota State University

Southwestern Oklahoma State University
St. Cloud State University
State University of New York at Fredonia
State University of New York at Geneseo
State University of New York at New Paltz
State University of New York College at Cortland
State University of New York College at Maritime
State University of New York College at Old Westbury
State University of New York College at Oneonta
State University of New York College at Oswego
State University of New York College at Plattsburgh
State University of New York College at Potsdam
State University of New York College of Agriculture and Technology at Cobleskill
State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry
State University of New York College of Optometry
State University of New York College of Technology at Alfred
State University of New York Delhi
State University of New York Downstate Health Sciences Center
State University of New York, Empire State College
Stephen F. Austin State University
Stony Brook University, SUNY
Tarleton State University
Temple University
Tennessee State University
Texas A&M University
Texas A&M University-Central Texas
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
Texas A&M University-Texarkana
Texas Southern University
Texas State University-San Marcos
Texas Women's University
The California State University
The College at Brockport, SUNY
The College of New Jersey
The Florida State University
The Ohio State University
The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey
The State University of New York System
The University of Akron
The University of Alabama
The University of Alabama at Birmingham
The University of Alabama in Huntsville

The University of Arizona
The University of Iowa
The University of Kansas
The University of Louisiana at Lafayette
The University of Louisiana at Monroe
The University of Louisville
The University of Maine
The University of Nevada Las Vegas
The University of New Orleans
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
The University of Oklahoma
The University of Rhode Island
The University of South Carolina
The University of South Carolina Aiken
The University of South Carolina Beaufort
The University of South Carolina Upstate
The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
The University of Tennessee at Martin
The University of Tennessee System
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
The University of Texas at Arlington
The University of Texas at Austin
The University of Texas at Dallas
The University of Texas at El Paso
The University of Texas at Tyler
The University of Texas of the Permian Basin
The University of Texas System
The University of Texas-Pan American
The University of Toledo
The University of Utah
The University of West Alabama
The University of West Georgia
The University System of Georgia
Thomas Edison State College
Towson University
Troy University
Truman State University
Tuskegee University
University at Albany, SUNY
University at Buffalo, SUNY
University of Alaska Anchorage
University of Alaska Fairbanks
University of Alaska Southeast
University of Alaska System
University of Arkansas at Fort Smith
University of Arkansas at Little Rock
University of Arkansas at Monticello
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
University of Arkansas System
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

The University of Baltimore
University of California
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Merced
University of California, Riverside
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of Central Arkansas
University of Central Florida
University of Central Missouri
University of Central Oklahoma
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado Colorado Springs
University of Colorado Denver
University of Colorado System
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
University of Florida
University of Guam
University of Hawai'i at Hilo
University of Hawai'i System
University of Hawai'i at Manoa
University of Houston-Clear Lake
University of Houston-Downtown
University of Houston-Victoria
University of Idaho
University of Illinois
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Illinois at Springfield
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Kentucky
University of Louisiana System
University of Maine at Fort Kent
University of Maine at Machias
University of Maine at Presque Isle
University of Maine System
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Maryland Eastern Shore
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
University of Massachusetts System
University of Massachusetts Amherst
University of Massachusetts Boston
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
The University of Memphis
University of Michigan
University of Michigan-Dearborn
University of Michigan-Flint

University of Minnesota Duluth
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
The University of Mississippi
University of Missouri System
University of Missouri-Columbia
University of Missouri-Kansas City
University of Missouri-St. Louis
The University of Montana
University of Nebraska System
University of Nebraska at Kearney
University of Nebraska at Omaha
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
University of Nevada, Reno
The University of New Hampshire
The University of New Mexico
The University of North Carolina at Charlotte
The University of North Carolina at Pembroke
The University of North Carolina System
University of North Alabama
University of North Carolina Wilmington
University of North Dakota
University of North Texas
University of North Texas at Dallas
University of Northern Iowa
University of Oregon
University of Pittsburgh
University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg
University of Pittsburgh at Bradford
University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez
University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma
University of South Alabama
University of South Florida
University of Southern Indiana
University of Southern Mississippi
University of the District of Columbia
University of the Virgin Islands
University of Vermont
University of Washington
University of West Florida
University of Wisconsin System
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
University of Wisconsin-Green Bay
University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse
University of Wisconsin-Madison
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh
University of Wisconsin-Parkside
University of Wisconsin-Platteville
University of Wisconsin-River Falls
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
University of Wisconsin-Stout

University of Wisconsin-Superior
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
University of Wyoming
University System of Maryland
University System of New Hampshire
Utah State University
Utah Valley University
Valdosta State University
Valley City State University
Vermont State Colleges
Vermont Technical College
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State
University
Virginia State University
Washburn University
Washington State University
Washington State University Vancouver
Weber State University
West Chester University of Pennsylvania
West Texas A&M University

West Virginia Higher Education Policy
Commission (System)
West Virginia State University
West Virginia University
West Virginia University Institute of
Technology
Western Carolina University
Western Connecticut State University
Western Illinois University
Western Kentucky University
Western Michigan University
Western New Mexico University
Western Oregon University
Western Washington University
William Paterson University
Winona State University
Winthrop University
Worcester State University
Wright State University