



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
Alabama A&M University
Alabama State University
Alcorn State University
Angelo State University
Appalachian State University
Arizona State University

Arkansas State University Jonesboro Arkansas State University System

Arkansas Tech University

Armstrong Atlantic State University

Athens State University Auburn University

Auburn University at Montgomery

Augusta State University
Austin Peay State University

Ball State University Bemidji State University Binghamton University, SUNY Black Hills State University

Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania

Bluefield State College Boise State University Bowie State University

Bowling Green State University Buffalo State College, SUNY

California Polytechnic State University

California State Polytechnic University Pomona

California State University, Bakersfield

California State University, California Maritime

Academy

California State University, Channel Islands

California State University, Chico

California State University, Dominguez Hills

California State University, East Bay
California State University, Fresno
California State University, Fullerton
California State University, Long Beach
California State University, Los Angeles
California State University, Monterey Bay
California State University, Northridge
California State University, Sacramento
California State University, San Bernardino
California State University, San Marcos
California State University, Stanislaus
California University of Pennsylvania

Cameron University
Castleton State College

Central Connecticut State University

Central Michigan University
Central State University
Central Washington University
Cheyney University of Pennsylvania

City College of New York

City University of New York (CUNY)

City University of New York, Brooklyn College City University of New York, College of Staten

Island

City University of New York, Lehman College

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

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

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 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 Guam

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 Dartmouth The University of Memphis University of Michigan

University of Michigan-Dearborn University of Michigan-Flint

University of Massachusetts Boston

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