Millennium Leadership Initiative

2020 INSTITUTE ONLINE PROGRAM
Program

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July 8, 2020

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. ET  2020 MLI “Meet and Greet” Introductory Session

AASCU President Mildred García will open the session, welcoming the 2020 cohort and sharing a snippet of her own experience as a protégé. Next, Peter McPherson and Dennis Shields will provide greetings as the president of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) and the chair of the Millennium Leadership Initiative (MLI) Executive Steering Committee, respectively. MLI Director Mary Evans Sias will give an overview of the program, explaining the online program and in-person meeting, and review expectations related to the program and additional components, such as mentor and coach assignments. She will also introduce the MLI Executive Steering Committee members that are on the call. Each protégé will then have an opportunity to introduce themselves and ask questions.

Speakers:  Mildred García, president, AASCU (Class of 1999)
Peter McPherson, president, APLU
Dennis J. Shields, chancellor, University of Wisconsin-Platteville (Class of 2009) and chair, MLI Executive Steering Committee
Mary Evans Sias, MLI director and assistant to the president, AASCU
July 22, 2020

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. ET   So, You Think You Want to Be a University President?

What attracts you to the presidency and are you ready? In this session a president and a chancellor will offer advice about how to decide whether an institution is the right fit for you and how to prepare to handle the enormous demands and frustrations the job will bring. Are you prepared to learn how to “turn on a dime” and be flexible when handling problems? Do you understand the bottom-line issues (i.e., fiscal accountability, changing student demographics, etc.) affecting most universities? Do you have the “know how” to build an effective senior leadership team that has the right people on it? This may be one of the most important discussions you will hear as you explore whether becoming a president is what you really want.

Moderator: Mary Evans Sias, MLI director and assistant to the president, AASCU
Presenters: Karrie G. Dixon, chancellor, Elizabeth City State University (N.C.) (Class of 2013) and MLI Executive Steering Committee member
Ronald S. Rochon, president, University of Southern Indiana (Class of 2009) and MLI Executive Steering Committee member
August 5, 2020

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. ET  Emergenetics Assessment Group A

The Emergenetics Profile, the test taken by protégés prior to this session, was developed to distinctively measure how people think and behave. Developed through years of psychometric research, the Emergenetics Profile accurately measures three behavioral attributes (expressiveness, assertiveness and flexibility) and four thinking attributes (analytical, structural, social and conceptual). All participants will receive a clear, color-coded individual report that shows how they performed on each attribute. With this insight, program participants can create personal strategies that get results. The Emergenetics session reveals individual thinking and behavioral preferences through experiential and interactive learning. It is a customizable, results-driven and engaging session focused on communications and how to use Emergenetics for increasing self-awareness and building more effective leadership teams.

Speaker:  Christine Johnson McPhail, Emergenetics consultant and president and CEO of the McPhail Group LLC

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET  Emergenetics Assessment Group B

The Emergenetics Profile, the test taken by protégés prior to this session, was developed to distinctively measure how people think and behave. Developed through years of psychometric research, the Emergenetics Profile accurately measures three behavioral attributes (expressiveness, assertiveness and flexibility) and four thinking attributes (analytical, structural, social and conceptual). All participants will receive a clear, color-coded individual report that shows how they performed on each attribute. With this insight, program participants can create personal strategies that get results. The Emergenetics session reveals individual thinking and behavioral preferences through experiential and interactive learning. It is a customizable, results-driven and engaging session focused on communications and how to use Emergenetics for increasing self-awareness and building more effective leadership teams.

Speaker:  Christine Johnson McPhail, Emergenetics consultant and president and CEO of the McPhail Group LLC
August 19, 2020

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. ET  Reflections on the First Year of Presidency: The Seen and the Unknown

Many people enter their first presidency without truly understanding the job itself. While very few presidencies are ever the same, many first-year presidents face similar tasks. What characteristics do you look for in selecting the right people for your cabinet? Do you come with a vision for the institution without having spoken to the diverse stakeholder groups? How do you form and maintain connections with students, faculty, staff and local citizens? When you find deeply entrenched institutional interests and practices, how do you work to change the status quo? How will you handle criticism that will likely come sooner than later? It is not often that you get to pull the curtain back and look at what might be in your future. In this session, you will hear from new presidents about what their first year on the job was like, what surprised them and, perhaps, whom they surprised!

Moderator:  Daniel A. Wubah, president, Millersville University (Pa.)
(Class of 2005)

Presenters:  Berenecea Johnson Eanes, interim president, York College,
The City University of New York (Class of 2012)
Guiyou Huang, president, Edinboro University (Pa.)
September 2, 2020

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. ET  What You Need to Know About Title IX and Campus Accountability and Why
Joint session with Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) class

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 says, “No person in the United States shall, based on sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” Why is Title IX important? What exactly does Title IX require with respect to institutional compliance? How is Title IX applied to athletics? Does Title IX only benefit women? Who is responsible for enforcing Title IX? How does one go about developing preventative programming focused on Title IX issues? How is Title IX being reinterpreted by the Department of Education? Participants will hear answers to these questions and more and walk away with a better understanding of Title IX as critical federal law.

Speaker: Janet P. Judge, partner, Holland & Knight LLP
September 16, 2020

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. ET  Experienced Presidents: Lessons Learned

Any presidency is a daunting job with competing and often contradictory demands that might seem impossible to resolve. Generally, those who are faint of heart do not seek a presidency. New presidents always come in with big plans, dreams, high hopes and self-confidence. In this session, two presidents with several years of experience from two different types of institutions will review some important lessons they have learned during their respective journeys as presidents. See how the lessons they have learned differ from the advice given by new presidents and how these lessons increased their chances of remaining in their jobs past year one or two.

Moderator:  Cynthia Teniente-Matson, president, Texas A&M University-San Antonio and AASCU Board member

Presenters:  Brian E. Noland, president, East Tennessee State University and AASCU Board member
            Eduardo M. Ochoa, president, California State University, Monterey Bay (Class of 2002), AASCU Board member and MLI Executive Steering Committee member
September 30, 2020

12:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. ET  Financial Management: What Presidents Need to Know About Institutional Sustainability

With the new financial challenges facing higher education institutions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, new presidents will need to develop proactive and sustainable strategies to help ensure the survival of their institutions. Every president must have a working knowledge of all facets of financial management to keep their institutions healthy—even in the short term. This session is designed to familiarize MLI participants with financial jargon and business practices to help them meet their future fiduciary responsibilities. The discussion will range from how to rebuild endowments that have been decimated to how to fill the void from decreased enrollments. It will also address how to improve academic portfolios and how to streamline administrative functions.

**Speaker:**  Steve Turner, president, Northeastern State University (Okla.) and MLI Executive Steering Committee member
October 14, 2020

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. ET  Capitol Hill Update on the Current State of Higher Education
Joint session with ELP class

In this session, AASCU’s Division of Government Relations and Policy Analysis staff will give an overview of the latest higher education policy developments on Capitol Hill, with a special focus on policies related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Speakers:  
Luis Maldonado, vice president for government relations and policy analysis, AASCU
Barmak Nassirian, director of federal relations and policy analysis, AASCU
Social media is an ever-evolving space where more and more people engage daily, and for a college president, it is your opportunity to engage with students, parents, alum and potential donors. This session will focus on the importance of creating a social media presence and ways to use social media as a tool for engagement.

**Speaker:** Walter M. Kimbrough, president, Dillard University (La.)
(Class of 2002)
November 13, 2020

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. ET  Integrated Case: “Just a Game” (Part I)

This session focuses on a case about athletics that incorporates real events but in a constructed context. The case study process will be briefly described, as it is introduced and used in this session. Case studies bring important concepts about leadership to life by illustrating their application within a specific context. Effective case studies, however, seldom can stand alone in conveying complicated ideas; they are most effective when paired with other forms of teaching and learning. Part II will take place at the in-person meeting in January.

Speaker:  Betty Overton, senior fellow, National Forum on Higher Education for the Public Good, University of Michigan
Consultations With Advisors

This is an opportunity for protégés (in groups of two) to consult with a presidential advisor and frame a plan for the next steps in achieving their career objectives. Protégés will meet with advisors over a Zoom conference call to discuss their professional development plans and prepare for the mentoring and professional coaching components that follow the MLI Institute. These appointment-only consultations will take place from July 10 to November 6 and will be scheduled in coordination with MLI’s program manager.

Advisors:  
- **Laurie Carter**, president, Shippensburg University (Pa.), AASCU Board member and MLI Executive Steering Committee member  
- **F. Javier Cevallos**, president, Framingham State University (Mass.), AASCU Board member and MLI Executive Steering Committee member  
- **Karrie G. Dixon**, chancellor, Elizabeth City State University (N.C.) (Class of 2013) and MLI Executive Steering Committee member  
- **Berenecea Johnson Eanes**, interim president, York College, The City University of New York (Class of 2012)  
- **Kristin G. Esterberg**, president, State University of New York at Potsdam, AASCU Board member and MLI Executive Steering Committee member  
- **Guiyou Huang**, president, Edinboro University (Pa.)  
- **Ellen Junn**, president, California State University, Stanislaus and MLI Executive Steering Committee member  
- **Walter M. Kimbrough**, president, Dillard University (La.) (Class of 2002)  
- **Brian E. Noland**, president, East Tennessee State University and AASCU Board member  
- **Eduardo M. Ochoa**, president, California State University, Monterey Bay (Class of 2002), AASCU Board member and MLI Executive Steering Committee member  
- **Al M. Panu**, chancellor, University of South Carolina Beaufort and MLI Executive Steering Committee member  
- **Ronald S. Rochon**, president, University of Southern Indiana (Class of 2009) and MLI Executive Steering Committee member
CONSULTATIONS WITH ADVISORS

Dennis J. Shields, president, University of Wisconsin-Platteville (Class of 2009) and chair, MLI Executive Steering Committee

Cynthia Teniente-Matson, president, Texas A&M University-San Antonio and AASCU Board member

Marion Terenzio, president, State University of New York College of Agriculture and Technology at Cobleskill and MLI Executive Steering Committee member

Steve Turner, president, Northeastern State University (Okla.) and MLI Executive Steering Committee member

Daniel A. Wubah, president, Millersville University (Pa.) (Class of 2005)
Dr. Vernell Bennett-Fairs hails from Lorain, Ohio, and is the first in her family to earn a doctorate degree. She is a classically trained vocalist with aspirations of one day becoming a university president. She loves the arts, shopping, going to the movies, dancing and sports. Bennett-Fairs is a hands-on administrator known for her energy and creativity. This year is her 24th year in higher education. She spent her first 20 years at an HBCU, where she began as a non-tenure track instructor and eventually advanced to the role of vice president for student affairs. She is currently serving as the vice president for student affairs at Delta State University (Miss.), a PWI. Bennett-Fairs has spent her entire professional career in higher education because she absolutely loves being a student advocate!

Dr. Constanza Cabello serves as the vice president for diversity, inclusion and community engagement at Framingham State University (Mass.). In this role, she provides broad vision, leadership, management, counsel and strategic planning to enhance the learning, living and working community of all campus members. Her strong training background allows her to engage with students and employees in a variety of campus and organizational environments. She is also on the Equity Institutes Teaching Faculty for the University of Southern California Race and Equity Center. Cabello received a Master of Science in counseling: student development in higher education from Central Connecticut State University and a Bachelor of Science in social policy and planning from the University of Connecticut. She completed the Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership Studies program at Northeastern University (Mass.). She is the proud child of Chilean immigrants and a first-generation college graduate.

Dr. Brian Corpening has been the chief diversity officer at California State University, Monterey Bay since June 2018. Prior to his current position, Corpening was the assistant provost for diversity and community partnerships at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, from 2006 to 2018. During his 35-year career, Corpening has served as the dean of student development at St. Louis Community College-Florissant Valley (Mo.); chief of staff to the president at Bunker Hill Community College (Mass.); director of the Multicultural Center, Illinois State University; assistant dean of students, Hamilton College (N.Y.); and assistant director of the Educational Opportunity Program, the State University of New York (SUNY) Morrisville. Corpening has taught at Illinois State University, St. Louis Community College (Mo.) and the University of Oklahoma. Corpening received his B.A. in political science from the University of Central Florida, M.S. in human resources management from Binghamton University (N.Y.) and his Ph.D. in educational studies from the University of Oklahoma.
Dr. Khalilah Doss has been in the field of student affairs for more than 15 years and currently serves as the vice president for student affairs at the University of Southern Indiana (USI). In this capacity, Doss has oversight for a portfolio of units that are germane to the successful transition, support and engagement of the students who call USI home. These offices include the counseling center; the dean of students office; the multicultural center; residential life; student development programs; religious life; recreation, fitness and wellness; and the university health center. Doss also serves as a board member for the Junior Achievement of Southwestern Indiana. Doss received her bachelor’s degree in economics, finance and marketing from McKendree University (Ill.); her master’s degree in public administration and policy analysis from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville; and her Ph.D. in educational administration and higher education from Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Steven Elliott is the vice president for academic affairs at Wayne State College (Neb.). Over the past 17 years he has also served as the dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, chair of the Department of Art and Design, and director of the Nordstrand Visual Arts Gallery. Elliott was born in Quantico, Virginia, and after serving a four-year active duty tour in the Marine Corps with extensive travel experiences overseas, he earned a B.F.A. from the University of Kansas and M.F.A. from the University of Maryland. His large-scale sculptures and mixed-media works have been included in more than 80 exhibitions and collaborations in 26 states nationwide, including ARC Gallery (Chicago, Ill.), 516 ARTS (Albuquerque, N.M.), Mid America Arts Alliance (Kansas City, Mo.), Joslyn Art Museum (Omaha, Neb.), the Sioux City Art Center (Sioux City, Iowa) and Manoa Art Gallery (Honolulu, Hawaii).

Dr. Edith Fernández is a proven administrative professional skilled in building relationships with community leaders and elected government officials. She has built a reputation as a tireless advocate for postsecondary education. Fernández has substantial experience in the field of higher education with expertise in institutional research, student success initiatives and strategic collaborations as well as significant marketing and organizational leadership skills. Her career in higher education spans 25 years working with community college and university students from minority-serving institutions. Currently she is an executive leader at Nevada State College as vice president for college and community engagement. Fernández is known for her inspiring keynote engagements, including leadership and development trainings. Fernández is a proud Nevada native and has worked at three of the six public higher education institutions in Nevada. She received her master’s degree from Harvard University (Mass.) and a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan.
Dr. John Gates joined Purdue University (Ind.) in early 2019 as the vice provost for diversity and inclusion and clinical professor in the Krannert School of Management. Prior to his appointment at Purdue, Gates had served as the inaugural associate dean in the University of Virginia’s School of Engineering and Applied Science. He was responsible for diversity, inclusion and engagement strategy. He also provided leadership in the recruitment and retention of faculty and graduate students from underrepresented minorities and guidance for diversity in curriculum development and programming. Other prior academic posts include serving as associate dean for administration and finance at Harvard College, Harvard University (Mass.) and special assistant to the president and provost at the University of Vermont, where he focused on strategic initiatives, change management and diversity. He also held a series of positions with increasing responsibility at New York University, culminating with his role as executive director of global operations.

Dr. Maurice Gipson is the inaugural vice chancellor for diversity and community engagement at Arkansas State University. In this role, he reports directly to the chancellor and leads the award-winning Division of Diversity and Community Engagement. In this capacity, he has presented all over the country on diversity, equity and inclusion issues in higher education. Gipson is a graduate of Louisiana State University and received an M.A. in history from Missouri State University and a Juris Doctor degree from Southern University Law Center (La.) with an emphasis on civil rights. Additionally, he is finishing a Ph.D. in history at the University of Mississippi. Gipson enjoys membership in several organizations including life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; executive council member of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History; Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity; and the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education.

Dr. Marie Humphrey serves as the senior associate vice president for student affairs & dean of students at Colorado State University Pueblo. She has 24 years of experience in higher education and student development at diverse, four-year institutions. Throughout her career, Humphrey has created purposeful opportunities for students including mentoring programs, classes for first-year students and mission-driven strategies to support university goals. She is a noted keynote speaker and the recipient of numerous awards, recognitions and grants from various organizations. Humphrey is a member of several professional organizations in student affairs. Humphrey holds a bachelor’s degree in English and a master’s degree in public health from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, as well as a doctorate in educational leadership and human resource studies from Colorado State University. Humphrey is a first-generation educator and has a passion for helping others reach their highest potential.
Saif Y. Ishoof serves as vice president for engagement at Florida International University (FIU). Ishoof leads a dynamic team in the Office of Engagement responsible for guiding and building the university’s partnerships with economic development agencies, industry, local government partners and social enterprises. In addition to strategic partnerships, the Office of Engagement has helped launch several of the university’s programs focused on the #FutureOfWork including the paid internship platform, the Talent Development Network and more recently the workforce development initiative, UpLabs. Ishoof is also a senior fellow in the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, where he teaches in the Master of Arts in Global Affairs Program. Ishoof also leads FIU’s efforts as an inaugural member of the Public Interest Technology University Network—an initiative that was incubated by the New America think tank and the Ford Foundation to address issues at the nexus of exponential technologies and the public interest.

Michael Johnson, chief of staff at the University of Houston System and University of Houston in Texas, is a career professional with more than two decades of progressively responsible leadership and management experience in public service, university administration, organizational research and the classroom. He holds a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from The Citadel (S.C.) and completed his master’s degree in higher education at George Mason University (Va.). He is currently finishing his doctoral work in higher education leadership and policy studies at the University of Houston. Prior to joining the University of Houston, he served in various administrative and leadership positions in enrollment management, student service and advancement at Purdue University (Ind.), George Mason University and Northern Virginia Community College. In addition, Johnson served as an officer in the United States Marine Corps in various leadership and command positions from platoon to division level both in garrison and overseas.

Dr. Barbara Krauthamer is dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where she is also professor of history. Krauthamer is the author of multiple books, including Envisioning Emancipation: Black Americans and the End of Slavery, co-authored with Deborah Willis. This book received the 2013 NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work in nonfiction. In 2017, the Association of Black Women Historians awarded her the Lorraine A. Williams Leadership Award in recognition of her scholarship and work creating opportunities for black women in higher education. In her role as dean, she has established campuswide fellowship and mentoring programs to support the recruitment and retention of graduate students from underrepresented groups. She received her B.A. from Dartmouth College (N.H.), a master’s degree from Washington University in St. Louis (Mo.), and her Ph.D. from Princeton University (N.J.).
Dr. Morakinyo A.O. Kuti is the director of the Office of Sponsored Programs and Research and also the director of the Center for Academic Research and Innovation at Central State University (Ohio). He has a demonstrated record of success facilitating positive outcomes for underrepresented students, particularly in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). More than 1,700 students have been positively impacted through Kuti’s programs, with 300 entering the workforce or graduate studies. He has administered $161 million in public and private funds since 2005. Also, Kuti has secured over $11 million that enhanced Central State University’s physical infrastructure, enabled faculty research and scholarly activities, and provided students with scholarships and experiential learning opportunities. Kuti was the recipient of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities 1890 Universities Career Exemplar Awards for distinguished alumni. He is a member of Pi Alpha Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration.

Dr. Stevie L. Lawrence II serves as vice president for postsecondary education at the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) in Atlanta, Georgia. Lawrence provides administrative oversight for the Academic Common Market, State Reciprocity Agreements, Open Educational Resources, the Doctoral Scholars Program and Education Data Services. In this role, he is also responsible for expanding external relationships with state higher education offices and postsecondary institutions to assist states with achieving college completion and workforce entry goals. Prior to SREB, Lawrence held several leadership roles at Fort Valley State University (Ga.), among them were founding dean of the University College, interim vice provost for student affairs and enrollment management, and executive director of retention services. Lawrence holds a Bachelor of Arts in history from North Carolina A&T State University, a Master of Public Administration from North Carolina Central University and a Ph.D. in urban higher education from Jackson State University (Miss.).

Dr. Leontye L. Lewis, a graduate of Coppin State College Class of 1991, currently serves as provost and vice president for academic affairs at her alma mater, now Coppin State University (Md.). She served in multiple roles at Coppin State—from faculty to administration. A Jamaican by birth, the seventh of eight children, and the first in her family to graduate high school and college, Lewis earned a B.S. in elementary education from Coppin State in 1991. She holds a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction from Bowling Green State University (Ohio); a second master’s degree in teaching and learning from Harvard University Graduate School of Education (Mass.); and a Doctor of Education, also from Harvard, in teaching, curriculum and learning environments. Her research interests and publications are focused on parental involvement, learning styles strategies, cultural relevant teaching practices, alternative assessment strategies and effective pedagogies.
Dr. Gloria Lopez is currently serving as the vice president for student affairs at Westfield State University (Mass.). Previously she served as the vice president for student affairs and dean of students at Hampshire College (Mass.). Prior to Hampshire College, she served as a senior level administrator at Northampton Community College (Pa.) and assistant dean of special programs at North Shore Community College (Mass.). Before transitioning into the field of higher education, she held various progressive roles at regional and national nonprofit and youth development organizations. Lopez obtained a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from Dartmouth College (N.H.), a Master of Social Work from Boston University, and a Doctorate of Education in higher education administration from the University of Massachusetts Boston. She was also selected as a leadership fellow with the National Community College Hispanic Council.

Dr. Debra Mays-Jackson serves as vice president for student success and chief of staff for Jackson State University (Miss.), where she primarily manages daily operations. She directly supervises Enrollment Management, Student Success, Student Affairs, Public Safety and Title III. Previously she served as vice-president of Hinds Community College’s (HCC) Utica and Vicksburg-Warren Campuses (Miss.). She directed HCC Utica and Vicksburg-Warren operations and administrative services for six campuses. Mays-Jackson earned Bachelor of Music, Master of Music Education and Specialist degrees from Jackson State University. She earned a Doctor of Philosophy from Mississippi State University. Mays-Jackson serves on the boards of the Mississippi Department of Education Teacher Licensure Commission and United Way (Capital Area). She is a member of the Mary Church Terrell Literary Club, Inc. and the Greater Jackson Chapter of the Links, Inc.

Dr. Laura Colson McLean has served as dean of Johnson C. Smith University’s (N.C.) Metropolitan College of Professional Studies since July 2015. She is known for strengthening the adult degree program’s culture of connection and engagement. Under her leadership, Metropolitan College of Professional Studies has initiated e-learning bachelor’s degree programs, expanded offerings and certification programs for non-native speakers of English, and established the Veterans Hub, an academic and support services network for military students and their families. McLean earned a Bachelor of Arts in education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a Master of Education in curriculum and supervision from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and a Doctor of Education in curriculum and instruction from Gardner-Webb University (N.C.). As a mother of three, she is a committed advocate for education for all, serving through Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and Friendship Missionary Baptist Church.
Dr. Pablo G. Ortiz has been an educator for more than 27 years, beginning his career as a teacher in Miami-Dade County Public Schools in Florida. He moved on to become a school principal for 12 years, serving in this role at the primary and secondary school level. He was promoted to assistant superintendent in 2012 and to associate superintendent in 2013 to spearhead the expansion of the Education Transformation Office. Ortiz accepted an opportunity in 2015 at Florida International University (FIU) to apply his talents in higher education as the associate vice president for regional academic locations and institutional development. Most recently, Ortiz has been granted the title of vice president of regional and world locations and vice provost for the Biscayne Bay Campus. Ortiz provides administrative oversight to the university’s nine regional academic locations. Ortiz also leads FIU Global, founded in fall 2019.

Dr. Tonantzin Oseguera (Deferred to 2021) is a first-generation college student born and raised in Mexico City. She is a student affairs professional dedicated to the retention, care and persistence of underserved student populations. Oseguera has served in student affairs administration, advising student government, evolving campus activities and developing student leadership programs for more than 16 years. Currently she serves as vice president for student affairs at California State University, Fullerton, with oversight for Admissions, Financial Aid, Educational Partnerships, Outreach and Recruitment, Orientation, Career Center, and Center for Internships and Community Engagement. Oseguera earned her doctorate in higher education at University of Southern California. She has a master’s degree in higher education and student affairs from the University of Vermont and a bachelor’s degree in human development and family studies with an emphasis in gerontology from Colorado State University. Her research focuses on underrepresented students and underserved populations in higher education.

Dr. Clyde Wilson Pickett currently serves as the chief diversity officer for the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System and was appointed to this position in October 2017. Previously, he served as special assistant to the president for diversity and inclusion at the Community College of Allegheny County (Pa.). Pickett is recognized as a national leader in advancing strategy and scholarship to support diversity, equity and inclusion in higher education and serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education. Pickett completed his B.S. in agricultural economics from the University of Kentucky, his M.Ed. from Morehead State University (Ky.) and his doctoral study at the University of Pittsburgh (Pa.). A native of Louisville, Kentucky, Pickett actively serves local and national community organizations. He is the father of two children, Destiny and Alexander.
Dr. Anna Ponder serves as vice chancellor for advancement at the University of South Carolina Beaufort (USCB), overseeing development, alumni affairs, government affairs as well as marketing, communications and media strategies. Before USCB, she served as executive director of the Tribeca Film Institute in New York City and director of marketing and investor relations for several hedge fund firms, including Tudor Investment Corporation, Raptor Capital Management, and High Rise Capital Management. Before finance, Ponder managed leadership gifts at the Robin Hood Foundation. She holds a B.A. in French and history from Spelman College, an M.A. in international economics and African studies from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (D.C.), and a Ph.D. in political science from Yale University (Conn.). She serves on the Hilton Head Island Board of Zoning Appeals and the boards of the Higher Education Trust and Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park.

Dr. Reine T. Sarmiento serves as associate provost and vice president of enrollment management at Lehman College, The City University of New York. She is a nationally recognized enrollment leader in higher education with more than 30 years of experience serving in various positions on the East and West Coast. At Lehman, Sarmiento has achieved record enrollment and record graduation rates. Prior to Lehman, she served in an executive role at LaGuardia Community College (N.Y.), where a record enrollment of 20,317 was reached. Through a mission- and vision-based, student-centered approach, Sarmiento has developed award-winning programs, created results-oriented collaborations, made strategic investments, used evidence-based approaches, and cultivated a division of leadership excellence and organizational success. Sarmiento holds an undergraduate degree in business administration from National University, a master’s degree in urban affairs from Hunter College (N.Y.) and a doctorate degree in educational leadership administration and policy from Fordham University (N.Y.).

Dr. Earl G. Simons is the executive director for government relations and strategic initiatives at York College, The City University of New York. He serves as a member of the President’s Senior Executive Cabinet and is responsible for intentional and strategic collaboration with the Offices of Academic Affairs, Student Development, and Finance and Administration to create credit and non-credit bearing workforce and economic development programs. Simons provides leadership, direction and supervision to the Small Business Development Center, the Queens Educational Opportunity Center, the York College Learning Center, the Milton G. Bassin Performing Arts Center and Office of Adult and Continuing Education. He earned a Doctor of Education in executive leadership from the Ralph G. Wilson, Jr. School of Education at St. John Fisher College (N.Y.), a Master of Public Administration from New York University’s Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, and a Bachelor of Arts from Shaw University (N.C.).
Dr. Suzanne R. Smith started at Georgia Southwestern State University on July 1, 2018, as the provost and vice president for academic affairs. Prior to that she was at Washington State University Vancouver from 1997 to 2018, where she most recently served as the director of academic planning and special assistant to the vice chancellor of academic affairs. She is a co-author of the book Exploring Family Theories, which is in its fourth edition. Smith’s primary area of research is family relationships, and she has studied these relationships among rural families in poverty as well as among the Hutterites. She devotes a good deal of time to helping oversee and fundraise for a school gardens program in Burundi, Africa, which she and colleagues at Washington State University began in 2015. She is a member of the Americus Georgia Rotary Club.

Dr. Jaime Taylor serves as provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Marshall University (W.Va.). After earning both an M.S. and Ph.D. in engineering science at University of Tennessee Space Institute, Taylor began his academic career at Austin Peay State University (APSU) (Tenn.) as an assistant professor of physics in 1996. Taylor also worked at NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center as a NASA faculty fellow in 1996–97 and 2001–02, with a focus on applications of soft computing. At APSU, he served as chair of the Physics Department for eight years and dean of the College of Science and Mathematics for another eight years, with a two-year interim appointment as provost and vice president of academic affairs. Taylor has developed expertise in working with an outcomes-based funding formula in Tennessee and is consulting on a similar project in the state of West Virginia.

Dr. DeNeia Thomas is an accomplished academician and transformational leader, demonstrating commitment to student success by ensuring mission focus and quality evidenced through institutional outcomes for effectiveness. Thomas has a career spanning the field of education from P–12, the state department of education to higher education institutions. With many peer-reviewed publications, funded research and refereed presentations, she has received awards for her contributions to scholarship and service in the areas of promoting promising factors for success among underrepresented populations. She is an active member in professional, civic and community organizations serving in various leadership and support roles. Currently, serving as the chief of staff at West Virginia State University, with deep passion and commitment as a member of the faculty and embracing challenging responsibilities across a wide spectrum of administrative roles, Thomas combines her expertise with experience and personal qualities necessary for advancing institutional innovation and success.
Dr. B. Donta Truss, vice president for enrollment management at Grand Valley State University (Mich.), has had a career that reflects his dedication toward strengthening institutions and improving the pathway to higher education. As an administrator and educator for the past 20 years, he has served in student success, student affairs, institutional research, retention, admissions and recruitment, advising, and more. Formerly, he was the vice president for enrollment development at Shippensburg University (Pa.). Prior to this, he served in senior leadership roles in the University System of Georgia for almost eight years. Truss is a triple graduate of Alabama State University. His dissertation was titled “Student Retention: An Analysis of Organizational Change at Three Alabama Two-Year Community Colleges.” He has received several commendations for his work, including being recognized by Alabama State University as a 2019 50 Under 50 Nominee and Georgia Trend Magazine’s 40 Under 40 leader in 2004.

Dr. Farrah Jackson Ward is the provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs and professor of mathematics at Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) (N.C.). During her time at ECSU, Ward has served in a variety of roles including associate director for the Computational Science and Scientific Visualization Center, coordinator of the M.S. in Mathematics Program, coordinator of the Mathematics Education Program, chair of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, and associate vice chancellor for academic affairs. Ward is widely recognized for her work in student success and has been featured in Inside Higher Ed and numerous EAB publications. Ward attended North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, where she graduated with a B.S. in mathematics education. She received both her M.S. and Ph.D. in mathematics from North Carolina State University and holds a postgraduate certificate in academic leadership from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology.

Dannelle Whiteside, vice president for legal affairs at Austin Peay State University (Tenn.), leads the university’s Office of Legal Affairs and serves as secretary for the university’s Board of Trustees. She has dedicated her career to promoting equal access to education. Whiteside previously served as general attorney for the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, in Philadelphia, where she reviewed, evaluated and resolved complex and sensitive cases in both the elementary and postsecondary contexts. She also served as general counsel for the Tennessee State Board of Education and district policy advisor for Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools. Whiteside has previously been named one of the Nation’s Best Advocates: 40 Lawyers Under 40 by the National Bar Association and won the Nashville Emerging Leader Award in Education.
Dr. C.J. Woods is an associate vice president and chief of staff for the Office of the President at Texas A&M University. He is responsible for providing counsel to the president and working on special projects and initiatives involving the Office of the President and its priorities. Prior to joining the president’s executive staff, Woods served as associate vice president for student affairs at Texas A&M University for eight years. In this role, Woods was responsible for the Memorial Student Center, Multicultural Services, Student Activities, Veteran Resource and Support Center, Diverse Strategies in Action Committee, Expressive Activity Committee, and the University Disciplinary Appeals Process. He earned his Ph.D. in higher education administration from the University of Louisville (Ky.). Woods also holds a M.Ed. in counseling and student development from George Mason University (Va.) and a B.S. in political science from the University of Southern Mississippi.
Dr. Laurie Carter became the 17th president of Shippensburg University (Pa.) on August 7, 2017. Since her arrival on campus, she has focused on charting a course for advancing Shippensburg as a world-class institution. Under her leadership she created a robust Division of Enrollment Management & Student Success and created the First Year Experience program and the Center for Student Success. Carter began her groundbreaking career in higher education more than 30 years ago at William Paterson University of New Jersey, Fairleigh Dickinson University (N.J.) and The Juilliard School (N.Y.), where she became the first African American administrator in the institution’s history. Carter left Juilliard to assume the position of vice president for arts education at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. She was soon recruited back into higher education, serving first as executive vice president for student success and university counsel and then as executive vice president and university counsel at Eastern Kentucky University.

Dr. F. Javier Cevallos began his tenure as president of Framingham State University (Mass.) on July 1, 2014. Cevallos earned his bachelor’s degree in 1976 at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez. From Puerto Rico, he moved to Illinois where he earned his master’s and doctoral degrees in 1978 and 1981, respectively, from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Throughout his tenure as president, Cevallos has been an advocate for bringing a global perspective to Framingham State University, creating partnerships with universities in Ecuador, Costa Rica and Brazil. He also strongly believes in community involvement and volunteers to serve on numerous nonprofit boards within the MetroWest region.

Dr. Karrie G. Dixon was named 12th CEO and seventh chancellor of Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) (N.C.) on December 14, 2018. She previously served as interim chancellor since April 9, 2018. Prior to this appointment, Dixon was a senior administrator at the University of North Carolina System Office since 2008. She was promoted to serve as vice president for academic and student affairs as well as chief student affairs officer, where she oversaw and shaped systemwide policy to ensure overall success for the more than 220,000 students enrolled across the state. Since Dixon's arrival at ECSU, enrollment climbed nearly 40% in just 18 months and degree program offerings expanded, which included launching an unmanned aircraft systems degree program, an online master's degree in education, and an online bachelor's degree in homeland security. Under her leadership, the university increased its fleet from two to 12 aircraft for ECSU’s signature aviation program.
Dr. Berenecea Johnson Eanes assumed the interim presidency of York College, a member institution of The City University of New York (CUNY), on September 1, 2019. This appointment marks Eanes’ return to CUNY, having served for six years as vice president for student affairs at John Jay College (2006–2012). Eanes immediately began assessing the needs of the college and devising a strategy to grow the college as “One York,” where everyone feels valued for their contribution to the academic enterprise. To this end, she embarked upon a “listening tour” of the college community as well as meetings with external stakeholders whose support York has always depended upon to survive and thrive. Within only several months at York, Eanes accomplished a number of long- and short-term goals including the completion of York’s strategic plan.

Dr. Kristin G. Esterberg serves as the 16th president of the State University of New York at Potsdam (SUNY Potsdam), a position she has held since 2014. The first woman to lead the college, Esterberg is passionate about helping institutions develop inclusive campus communities and providing transformational experiences to all students. Under her leadership, the campus recently completed a $33.5 million comprehensive campaign and received a historic $5.25 million gift to support faculty efforts in applied learning. With its newly created Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), SUNY Potsdam is implementing its first DEI strategic plan. At the national level, Esterberg serves as a board member for AASCU and is a member of the MLI Executive Steering Committee. Esterberg currently serves as co-chair of the SUNY Global Learning for All Taskforce.

Dr. Mildred García assumed the presidency of AASCU on January 22, 2018. She is the first Latina to lead one of the six presidentially based higher education associations in Washington, D.C. Before joining AASCU, García served as president of California State University (CSU), Fullerton and as president of CSU Dominguez Hills, where she was the first Latina president in the largest system of public higher education in the country. Previously, García served as CEO of Berkeley College (N.Y., N.J.), where she was the first systemwide president for all six campuses. García earned a Doctor of Education degree and an M.A. in higher education administration from Teachers College, Columbia University (N.Y.); an M.A. in business education/higher education from New York University; a B.S. in business education from Baruch College, The City University of New York; and an A.A.S. from New York City Community College.
Dr. Guiyou Huang, became Edinboro University’s (Pa.) 19th president on July 1, 2019. Prior to his appointment, he served for two and a half years as chancellor of Louisiana State University at Alexandria (LSUA). Before joining LSUA in 2017, he served as senior vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty at Norwich University (Vt.), and he served as dean of the Biscayne College of Liberal Arts and dean of Undergraduate Studies & Programs at St. Thomas University (Fla.). In addition, he held numerous other leadership roles in both public and private institutions, including director of the Honors College at Grand Valley State University (Mich.) and chair of the English Department and director of the University Honors Program at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania. Huang taught a diverse range of courses in American literature and literary theory at both the graduate and undergraduate levels at universities in the U.S. and China, including Lehigh University (Pa.), Texas A&M University, and Beijing University and Qufu Normal University in China.

Janet P. Judge is a higher education attorney who focuses her practice in the area of sports, employment and civil rights law. She works with public, private and religiously affiliated institutions. Judge regularly represents institutions in administrative enforcement proceedings and advises institutions of higher education around LGBTQ+ protections; pay and program equity reviews; strategic program development; and organization, employee and student investigations, including NCAA eligibility and infractions investigations and resolutions. In addition, Judge collaborates with institutions to develop and deliver preventative programming focused on sexual misconduct, discrimination, hazing and social media. She was an appointed member of the NCAA Board of Governors’ Commission to Combat Campus Sexual Violence, Tennessee’s Special Independent Commission on Title IX Resources and Programs, and the American Bar Association Criminal Justice Section Task Force on College Due Process Rights and Victim Protections. She teaches the National Association of College and University Attorneys’ Title IX coordinator course and has conducted workshops at more than 500 NCAA schools and conferences.

Dr. Ellen Junn is the 11th president of California State University (CSU), Stanislaus (Stan State). Junn has implemented new and innovative programs for student success, especially for nontraditional students. Other initiatives support faculty success with enhanced funding for research, scholarly and creative activity; use of high-impact practices; and numerous faculty learning communities. She has a remarkable and extensive 33-year history with CSU, having worked at five other campuses prior to joining Stan State. She served as provost and vice president for academic affairs at CSU Dominguez Hills and San Jose State (Calif.), associate provost at Fresno State (Calif.), associate dean of the College of Health and Human Development at CSU Fullerton, and assistant professor at CSU San Bernardino. Junn earned a bachelor’s degree in experimental and cognitive psychology from the University of Michigan, where she graduated cum laude. She obtained both a master’s and Ph.D. in cognitive and developmental psychology from Princeton University (N.J.).
Dr. Walter M. Kimbrough, in October 2004, at the age of 37, was named the 12th president of Philander Smith College (Ark.). In 2012, he became the seventh president of Dillard University (La.). Kimbrough has been recognized for his research and writings on HBCUs and African American men in college. Recently he has emerged as one of the leaders discussing free speech on college campuses. Kimbrough also has been noted for his active use of social media. He was cited by Education Dive as one of 10 college presidents on Twitter who are doing it right (@HipHopPrez), and in 2015 he was named by TheBestSchools.org as one of the 20 most interesting college presidents. Kimbrough has forged a national reputation as an expert on fraternities and sororities, with specific expertise regarding historically black, Latin and Asian groups.

Luis Maldonado was appointed vice president for government relations and policy analysis at AASCU, effective July 8, 2019. He aids the president of AASCU in this position by directing and coordinating activities that advance the mission of the association, serving as the direct liaison with government officials, federal agencies and other educational organizations to develop policies and positions that support regional comprehensive state colleges and universities. Maldonado has more than 25 years of combined experience in government relations and advocacy efforts with various organizations in the Washington, D.C., region. He has worked in advocacy for three nonprofit organizations: most recently with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, where he served in a legislative affairs capacity from 2002 to 2005 and as chief advocacy officer from 2014 to 2019, and in senior advocacy positions with the Council on Foundations and the American Diabetes Association.

Dr. Christine Johnson McPhail is president and CEO of the McPhail Group LLC and a nationally recognized thought leader in higher education. She formerly served as a higher education professor at Morgan State University (Md.) and president of Cypress College (Calif.). She currently serves as a professor of practice at Kansas State University. She is a certified associate trainer for Emergenetics International, which helps organizations, ranging from small businesses to Fortune 500 companies. McPhail partners with leaders in education and nonprofits to tackle their most important challenges with a mission to help leaders shape the teaching and learning environment by engaging, aligning and inspiring people to act.
Dr. Peter McPherson is president of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), a North American higher education association representing 241 public research universities. APLU works with its U.S., Canadian and Mexican members to support university research, advance college access and completion, and bolster university-community engagement. McPherson served in a variety of positions in the Ford and Reagan administrations. He served as a special assistant to President Gerald Ford. In the Reagan administration, he led the United States Agency for International Development (the U.S. foreign aid program). He later served as deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Treasury. In 1987, he was a principal negotiator in the final weeks of negotiations of the Canadian Free Trade Agreement, the forerunner of the North American Free Trade Agreement. He holds a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University, an MBA from Western Michigan State University, and a J.D. from American University in Washington, D.C.

Barmak Nassirian, director of federal relations and policy analysis, joined the AASCU staff in 2013. In this role, he coordinates federal relations and legislative, regulatory and public policy at the federal level. Nassirian returned to AASCU after having served the association from 1990 to 1998 as the director of federal policy analysis. This was followed by nearly 15 years of executive management experience with the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers. Nassirian is a nationally known policy analyst and expert on federal student aid. He brings with him an extensive network of contacts on both sides of the aisle on Capitol Hill and within key federal agencies, as well as with the media and the broader national higher education community.

Dr. Brian E. Noland became the ninth president of East Tennessee State University (ETSU) in January 2012 after serving for six years as chancellor of the West Virginia Higher Education System. Under his leadership, ETSU has moved into an era of construction that, in a compressed five-year window, may very well serve as the largest number of projects and dollars spent on projects in the history of the institution. Past and current major projects include the construction of a performing arts center, a new football stadium, the creation of an interprofessional research and education center, and an extensive renovation to the D.P. Culp University Center. The renovation of Lamb Hall, an academic building for health sciences programs, is also in the planning stages. Noland has guided long-term visioning processes at the university as well as the creation of a new budget model for the institution and the establishment of a new ETSU brand.
Dr. Eduardo M. Ochoa has been president of California State University (Cal State), Monterey Bay since 2012. He has worked for more than 30 years as a faculty member and administrator at campuses in the Cal State system, including Fresno State, Cal State Los Angeles, Cal Poly Pomona and Sonoma State University. At Sonoma State, he served as provost and vice president for academic affairs from 2003 to 2010. From 2010 to 2012, he was assistant secretary for postsecondary education in the Obama administration, acting as the chief advisor on higher education matters to the secretary of education and heading the Office of Postsecondary Education, which administers most of the Department of Education’s higher education programs. A native of Argentina, Ochoa has a B.A. in physics and philosophy from Reed College (Ore.), an M.S. in nuclear science and engineering from Columbia University (N.Y.), and a Ph.D. in economics from the New School for Social Research (N.Y.).

Dr. Betty Overton is a senior fellow with the National Forum on Higher Education for the Public Good at the University of Michigan and faculty in the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program at Union Institute & University (Ohio). She formerly served as clinical professor of higher education and director of the National Forum at the University of Michigan. Prior to joining Michigan, she was provost at Spring Arbor University (Mich.). She has held a variety of higher education roles, including graduate dean at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock; associate dean at Fisk University (Tenn.); and assistant professor at Nashville State Technical Institute. In addition to her campus work, Overton was for 10 years a program officer and director at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, overseeing initiatives on minority-serving institutions, institutional transformation, community colleges and other projects. Overton holds degrees in English from Tennessee State University and a doctorate from Vanderbilt University (Tenn.).

Dr. Al M. Panu, chancellor, University of South Carolina Beaufort (USCB), is an accomplished scholar and academic leader. He is the second chancellor of USCB since it achieved baccalaureate status in 2002. Panu devoted more than three decades to scholarship, teaching and higher education leadership in public comprehensive universities within the University System of Georgia. He is beginning his fifth academic year as chancellor of USCB. He and his wife Judith are the parents of three grown children.
Dr. Ronald S. Rochon began serving as president of the University of Southern Indiana (USI) in July 2018, after serving eight years as provost. Rochon came to USI from Buffalo State College, State University of New York, where he served as the inaugural dean of the School of Education, associate vice president for teacher education and professor. He was director and co-founder of the Research Center for Cultural Diversity and Community Renewal at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, as well as interim associate dean and director of the school of education. In 2010, he also served as chair of the board of the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education in Washington, D.C. His professional teaching career has included work at Texas A&M University, Washington State University and University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Tuskegee University (Ala.) and master’s and doctoral degrees from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Dr. Dennis J. Shields has been chancellor at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville (UW-Platteville) since 2010–11, and during that time he led the university to tremendous growth in students, programs and facilities. Most recently, he piloted an impressive effort to gain legislative and gubernatorial approval to build a new $55 million state-of-the-art engineering facility on campus as well as a $23.7 million renovation project for Boebel Hall. Sesquicentennial Hall, slated for construction to begin within the next three years, will replace the engineering building Ottensman Hall, which was built in 1966. The Boebel Hall renovation began in 2019. Those two projects, plus a $15.3 million Williams Fieldhouse expansion, will give UW-Platteville more than $93 million in upcoming growth and improvements that will transform the campus. An Iowa native, Shields earned his undergraduate degree in business administration from Graceland College (Iowa) in 1977 and his Juris Doctor from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1982.

Dr. Mary Evans Sias is MLI director and assistant to the president of AASCU. A nationally known leader, an advocate for students and higher education, and an involved community leader, Sias served as president of Kentucky State University from 2004 to 2014. As a university president, Sias brought a broad range of administrative experiences and valuable state and national perspectives on higher education issues and policies. She chaired the boards of two of the big six national organizations in higher education: the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and AASCU. A native of Jackson, Mississippi, Sias received her Bachelor of Science in sociology from Tougaloo College (Miss.) and her Master of Science degree and Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She also holds an MBA from Abilene Christian University (Texas) and an honorary doctorate in public service from Central Michigan University.
Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson, a San Antonio native, is the second president of Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-SA), one of the fastest-growing universities in Texas and the only Texas A&M System university located in a major metropolitan city. Since becoming president in 2015, Teniente-Matson has forged an audacious strategic plan for the university to fulfill its mission. At A&M-SA, she has led the institution’s successful transformation to becoming a designated Hispanic Serving Institution and a comprehensive four-year university, welcoming the university’s first freshman class in 2016. She has led new strategic initiatives, including creation of the Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement through private funding and secured Chancellor’s Research funding for the Institute of Water Resource Science and Technology. Teniente-Matson has been recognized for her leadership and service in education, including receiving the Making a Mark on the World Innovation Award from the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber and the Women’s Leadership Award from the San Antonio Business Journal.

Dr. Marion Terenzio is the president of the State University of New York College of Agriculture and Technology at Cobleskill. She holds a Ph.D. in community psychology from Michigan State University and two master’s degrees in community psychology and music therapy. Her bachelor’s degree is in music from Vassar College (N.Y.). Terenzio enjoys national attention for her shared governance model in creating thriving campus communities and promoting higher education as an economic driver. She led downtown revitalization efforts and consulted with national organizations such as the College Board, the Institute for Higher Education Policy, the National Intelligence Council and the United Nations. She is currently working with the National Governors Association’s initiative on rural resurgence, sharing her work in establishing the Institute for Rural Vitality, a model program supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Terenzio’s community engagement includes service on state and local economic development and health systems organizations.

Dr. Steve Turner, the 19th president of Northeastern State University (NSU) in Oklahoma, is a role model for the regional university system as a nontraditional, first-generation graduate. From his early years spent working in the oil industry to his later college years serving as both student and staffer, Turner has worked his way through the ranks to achieve his dreams. Prior to his NSU appointment, Turner served as vice president for administration and finance and executive assistant to the president for governmental relations and economic development at East Central University (ECU) in Ada, Oklahoma. Turner began his career in higher education at ECU in 1989, serving in many capacities. Turner earned his doctorate in adult learning and higher education administration from the University of Oklahoma. He holds a master’s degree in human resources with an emphasis in counseling and a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice with an emphasis in law enforcement and minor in counseling, both from ECU.
Dr. Daniel A. Wubah is the 15th president of Millersville University (Pa.). He came to Millersville in July 2018 with a distinguished record as a scientist and a senior-level administrator at Washington and Lee University (Va.), Virginia Tech, University of Florida, and James Madison University (Va.). He has been a dedicated professor, mentor and scholar in the fields of microbiology and botany for over three decades. In addition to his roles on campus, Wubah is very active in the community and beyond. He is a member of the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and Industry Board of Directors, the Lancaster General Health Board of Trustees, the Landis Community Board, as well as the Governing Council of Academic City College (Ghana). Wubah received a Bachelor of Science (Honors) and Diploma in Education from the University of Cape Coast (Ghana), an M.S. from the University of Akron (Ohio) and a Ph.D. from the University of Georgia.
AASCU’s membership of nearly 400 public colleges and universities is found throughout the United States, and in the Bahamas and China. We range in size from 1,000 students to 45,000. We are found in the inner city; in suburbs, towns and cities; in remote rural America; and internationally. We include campuses with extensive offerings in law, medicine and doctoral education—as well as campuses offering associate degrees to complement baccalaureate studies. We are both residential and commuter and offer online degrees as well. Yet common to virtually every member institution are three qualities that define its work and characterize our common commitments.

♦ We are institutions of access and opportunity. We believe that the American promise should be real for all Americans, and that belief shapes our commitment to access, affordability and educational opportunity, and in the process strengthens American democracy for all citizens.

♦ We are student-centered institutions. We place the student at the heart of our enterprise, enhancing the learning environment and student achievement not only through teaching and advising, but through our research and public service activities.

♦ We are “stewards of place.” We engage faculty, staff and students with the communities and regions we serve—helping to advance public education, economic development and the quality of life for all with whom we live and who support our work. We affirm that America’s promise extends not only to those who come to the campus but also to all our neighbors.

We believe that through this stewardship and through our commitments to access and opportunity and to our students, public colleges and universities effectively and accountably deliver America’s promise. In so doing we honor and fulfill the public trust.