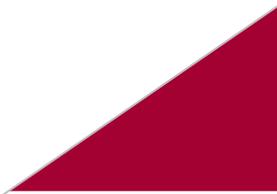




Fiscal Year 2020 in Review



In FY20, AASCU deepened its commitment and value to its members by providing relevant and timely programs and services, offering professional development opportunities that strengthen the higher education leadership pipeline, advocating for strong state and federal policy in support of state colleges and universities, and launching a new [strategic plan](#) for the association's future work.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, AASCU answered members' needs with a suite of new resources, including a webinar series on the pandemic's impact on higher education, restructuring and converting its signature meetings to virtual settings, and creating a COVID-19 resources page for members to find the latest news and information on the coronavirus.

AASCU's public profile expanded as the association served as a key resource for journalists covering the coronavirus. The association also promoted the impressive work of our members as they continue to serve as Stewards of Place, supporting their students and communities during this unprecedented time. Here are more details on AASCU's accomplishments:

Office of the President

- ◆ Launched AASCU's [FY20-25 Strategic Plan](#), which represents a bold vision for the association and serves as a blueprint for its work.
- ◆ Facilitated one-on-one calls between AASCU President Mildred García and member presidents and chancellors to ensure AASCU remains informed of our institutions' needs and the challenges they face.
- ◆ Developed webinar series on topics pressing to presidents during the pandemic and racial justice on campus (e.g., Title IX, re-opening campuses during COVID-19, creating budgets in the midst of a pandemic, creating an environment of racial justice on campus).

Academic Innovation and Transformation

- ◆ Received a \$2.5 million, two-year grant to accelerate transformation and increase student success outcomes across AASCU's membership network of nearly 400 public colleges, universities, and systems. AASCU is one of only 12 organizations to receive the [Intermediaries for Scale](#) grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
- ◆ Joined the [Advising Success Network](#), which provides resources and services to advance academic advising as a tool for helping institutions pursue equity and excellence in promoting student success. This effort is supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
- ◆ Was awarded a \$1.5 million grant by Ascendium Education Group to develop a student success institute for provosts, providing them with knowledge and tools to lead transformative change on campuses. The pilot program will launch later in 2020 and will be made open to all AASCU campuses.

Administration and Finance

- ◆ Realigned AASCU's budget to support Strategic Plan initiatives, continued to right size the operations, and improved efficiencies in the delivery of programs and services.
- ◆ Improved financial reporting to the Board of Directors and used the IRS Form 990, a public document, to better highlight AASCU's important mission and work.

- ◆ Assisted the president in completing the sale of AASCU's building, allowing the association to downsize to a smaller footprint and a more collaborative, modern workspace.

Communications and Public Relations

- ◆ Created a [Coronavirus Resources Page](#) to keep members and the public informed of our institutions' responses to the coronavirus crisis and the latest policy information and news regarding the pandemic.
- ◆ Worked with the media to inform key stakeholders of our advocacy efforts and promote the work of our institutions. AASCU was mentioned more than 500 times in the media in FY20, including placements in *The Washington Post* and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.
- ◆ Wrote op-eds on the [value of college](#) and the [student success work of the Frontier Set](#). Assisted in the publication of op-eds on [making the FAFSA mandatory](#) for applying to college and the [importance of regional comprehensives](#), bringing more public attention to important issues facing our member institutions.
- ◆ Advanced the missions of our members through a robust social media presence and kept our institutions and other key stakeholders informed of pressing news and events. AASCU now has more than 11,000 followers on [Twitter](#).
- ◆ Launched a [video series](#) to highlight the value of our institutions, allowing AASCU presidents to speak directly on the benefits of state colleges and

universities, enhancing the public's understanding of these institutions and countering the negative discourse surrounding the value of a college degree.

Government Relations and Policy Analysis

- ◆ Positioned members to respond to COVID-19-related developments, including hosting webinars on the use of institutional/student funds via the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and holding daily meetings with key higher education leaders to discuss proposed federal policies.
- ◆ Advocated for state colleges and universities before Congress and the administration on a plethora of important issues, including ensuring the needs of higher education are represented in congressional efforts to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus, the shaping of policy such as Title IX, distance education, and efforts to reform federal student aid policies to better support low-income and first-generation students and students of color.
- ◆ Engaged with key authorizing committees in Congress to represent the interests of regional comprehensive institutions in regard to the pending reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.
- ◆ Represented AASCU members before Congress and the administration on legislative and regulatory issues of affordability, campus climate/safety, financial reporting, international students/faculty/researchers and quality assurance.

Grants Resource Center

- ◆ Presented information on [Grants Resource Center](#) (GRC) services and funding opportunities at AASCU meetings and during campus visits, reaching approximately 300 people. Provided private consultations regarding GRC services and federal funding opportunities to nearly 50 individuals.
- ◆ Hosted three townhalls with sponsored research administrators from more than 50 campuses to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the higher education funding landscape. Developed a [COVID-19 Information page](#) specific to GRC members' needs that provides relevant resources, including links to federal and private funding announcements.
- ◆ Presented in-depth presentations of federal funding opportunities to 35 sponsored research administrators.
- ◆ Maintained a curated database of nearly 1,500 funding opportunities, a funded proposal library with more than 130 examples, and access to more than 35 sample administrative policies.
- ◆ Distributed 13 weekly and monthly publications covering grant and contract announcements.

Leadership Development and Partnerships

- ◆ Provided professional development and training to more than 100 presidents/chancellors and campus leaders.

- ◆ Held two successful presidential symposiums with more than 75 presidents/ chancellors and other cabinet members. Outcomes from both symposia have led to additional opportunities for research and thought leadership at AASCU convenings.
- ◆ Increased members' ability to engage during AASCU meetings via the use of MentiMeter, which allows members to ask questions and respond to polls during workshops and plenaries.

Millennium Leadership Initiative

- ◆ Continued to strengthen the higher education leadership pipeline through the [Millennium Leadership Initiative](#) (MLI), which has now produced 166 presidencies or chancellorships.
- ◆ Enhanced the leadership skills of more than 630 protégés since 1999.
- ◆ Transformed MLI's traditional format to include both a virtual and in-person program in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.