



Economic Literacy Project: The American Democracy Project Partners With Up to Us

AASCU's American Democracy Project (ADP) is pleased to invite you to participate in the **Economic Literacy Project**, a one-year initiative in partnership with [Up to Us](#). By the time our undergraduates reach their 30s, the interest from the U.S. national debt will be \$5.2 trillion and the impact to our country's economic and social capital will be significant.

Recognizing the critical need for American undergraduate students to have greater economic literacy and understanding of the national debt to be informed and engaged citizens, ADP and Up to Us are launching the Economic Literacy Project. It will offer faculty and student affairs staff the unique opportunity to collaborate with each other and subject matter experts from Up to Us to explore strategies to increase student understanding of the long-term fiscal challenges and outlook for the United States.

Call for Participation

ADP seeks 20 AASCU institutions to join a one-year pilot initiative to improve economic literacy among U.S. undergraduate students by creating curricular and co-curricular programming. Each campus will be asked to designate two participants: one faculty member and one student affairs staff member. Any AASCU ADP member institution may apply to participate.

Support and Resources

Up to Us has resources that offer an engaging and accessible pathway for students to build economic literacy and understanding of the implications of the U.S.'s long-term fiscal outlook. Participants will have access to Up to Us resources and subject matter expertise, with a goal of creating curricular and co-curricular programming that increases students' economic literacy regarding the national debt and the long-term fiscal outlook of the U.S.

Participants will also receive a stipend.

Expectations

Each participating institution will be asked to designate two participants, one faculty member and one student affairs staff member, who will work together to develop campus curricular and co-curricular activities to build economic literacy. Individuals at the participating institutions will form a community of practice, work together to exchange ideas and develop effective strategies, and provide support across institutional roles. Participants will be expected to provide updates and reflections on activities during monthly conference calls with Up to Us and ADP throughout the project, share materials and present their work in this project to a wider audience, and present at

the 2022 Civic Learning & Democratic Engagement Meeting (CLDE22) to be held in Minneapolis in June 2022.

Monthly meetings will be held virtually at 2 p.m. ET on the second Monday of each month from September 2021 through June 2022 (excluding December 2021). From September to November, teams will be introduced to material and potential subject matter experts from Up to Us. Teams will also spend significant time planning how to integrate content into curriculum (for faculty) and/or programming (for staff). From January to May, we expect that teams will begin testing curriculum or programming initiatives on their respective campuses, reporting on how the content is enhancing students' knowledge of the U.S.'s long-term fiscal outlook, and determining the feasibility of additional initiatives to produce as a cohort. In June, the cohort will convene in Minneapolis at CLDE22.

Application

To apply, AASCU member institutions should send a statement of interest to Felice Nudelman at nudelmanf@aacu.org and Cathy Copeland at copelandc@aacu.org by COB on **Friday, August 13, 2021**. Selected institutions will be notified shortly thereafter and the cohort's first formal meeting will be September 13, 2021 from 2-3 p.m. ET.

All statements of interests should include:

1. The names and titles of the two designated participants
2. The contact information for the participants
3. A short statement that explains why you are interested in participating and how your institutional team hopes to collaborate on curricular and co-curricular programming about the national debt

We hope you will consider participating in this special initiative.

All our best,
Felice and Cathy

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