

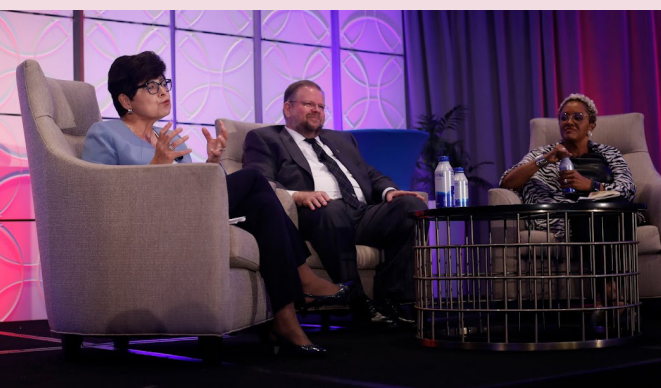


**AASCU** American Association  
of State Colleges and  
Universities  
Delivering America's Promise



# YEAR IN REVIEW

2021-2022





## 2021–2022 Year in Review

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to share with you the *AASCU Year in Review 2021–2022*.

What another remarkable year it has been. Even as more of our institutions and communities re-opened at greater capacity and vaccination rates continued to rise, the lingering impact of the COVID-19 pandemic persists.

And just as the students and the AASCU institutions that serve them rose to the challenge, I am extremely proud of the work AASCU has done to continue our critical mission of supporting members in building pathways to opportunity and economic mobility through accessible, affordable, and high-quality public higher education. Our work has never been more vital or urgent than in these times.

In these pages, you'll find a snapshot of some of our key achievements of 2022, from critical partnerships to close equity gaps for students—including the expansion of our Student Success Equity Intensive thanks to new funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation—to new initiatives focused on strengthening the leadership skills of tomorrow's higher education leaders, to our vital advocacy and public policy agenda to support the needs of our members, to launching strategic initiatives to tell our story.

My heartfelt pledge is to continue to expand the ways we serve you and your diverse students.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mildred García". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mildred García, Ed.D.  
President and CEO, AASCU



Here are more details on AASCU's accomplishments:

## Student Success Innovation

- ➔ Participated in the Student Success Transformation Cohort, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, designed to help achieve student success goals and close equity gaps for Black, Latinx, Indigenous, and low-income students.
- ➔ Convened the six member institutions in AASCU's Frontier Set—a project to identify successful strategies to improve graduation rates, especially for low-income, first-generation students of color—for a culmination event, as the grant officially ended on June 30, 2022.
- ➔ Convened five member institutions, known as AASCU's Pilot Cohort. The Pilot Cohort is a group of institutions that embarked on a new comprehensive set of activities to assist our member institutions as they focus on student success. This was their final culminating event, as the grant officially ended on July 31, 2022.
- ➔ Jointly administered the CHEPD 1+2+1 Program with our partner organization in China. Approximately 410 Chinese students arrived at 17 AASCU member campuses through the CHEPD 1+2+1 Program for the 2021–22 academic year. Over the past 20 years, this partnership has brought more than 6,000 Chinese students to AASCU institutions, resulting in over \$300 million in total revenue for the participating campuses.

## Creating Communities of Experience

- ➔ Presented AASCU's annual meeting in November 2021 for 441 participants, which included 120 presidents and 182 cabinet members from member campuses. The event featured speakers Melinda French Gates, Nikole Hannah-Jones, Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient Richard A. Arnold II, and President-to-Presidents lecturer Rita Cheng.
- ➔ Delivered four in-person symposiums during the spring for 125 presidents and provosts covering racism and democracy, academic program planning, and building student-centric institutions.
- ➔ Convened 150 presidents/chancellors, spouses/partners, and thought partners for 2022 Summer Council of Presidents, where we reflected on the lessons learned from the pandemic and focused on the next chapters of racial injustice, divisiveness, and the constant uncertainty and the leadership demands of this tumultuous time. The AASCU 2022 Annual Conference is planned for November 13–15 in Carlsbad, California.
- ➔ Hosted monthly webinars with more than 1,000 participants, providing timely and relevant content to members.
- ➔ Grew our relationship with the International Association of University Presidents (IAUP). President Mildred García serves on the IAUP Executive Committee, which solidifies a shared commitment to enhanced collaboration to achieve common objectives.

- ➔ Continued to expand international partnerships for our members. Working with the French Embassy in Washington, D.C., we have developed a matchmaking platform where institutions can find potential matches based on available criteria. During AASCU's inaugural International Education Week in November, we co-hosted a matchmaking event where U.S. and French institutions met and discussed collaborative opportunities. More than 80 AASCU and French institutions attended this event.
- ➔ Grew AASCU's Committee on International Education from 14 members to 17, with the inclusion of our first member institution from Mexico.

## Building Leadership Capacity and Diversity

- ➔ Provided a rich array of virtual and in-person learning and engagement opportunities for more than 300 member presidents, provosts, and senior leaders. This included:
  - **Millennium Leadership Initiative (MLI)** – 30 participants graduated from the 2020 cohort and 32 participants graduated from the 2021 cohort as part of AASCU's annual meeting in November. The 2022 cohort (22 participants) was named in April and gathered in Washington, D.C., in June for a four-day convening designed to develop the next generation of college presidents.
  - **Emerging Leaders Program (ELP)** – 36 emerging leaders participated in the 2021 cohort. AASCU received record applications for the 2022 cohort and accepted 36 participants. The cohort met in person in June in Washington, D.C., and continues with virtual learning opportunities throughout the fall.
  - **New Presidents Academy (NPA)** – 30 new presidents/chancellors participated in the 2021 program, which included virtual and in-person programming and 1-1 mentor matches for all participants; 28 new presidents and chancellors are participating in the 2022 cohort and spent four days together in Carlsbad, California, in July.
  - **Becoming a Provost Academy (BAPA)** – 24 aspiring provosts participated in 2021; a record 36 academic leaders were appointed for 2022.
  - **Executive Leadership Academy (ELA)** – 35 aspiring presidents participated in 2021; 30 future presidents were appointed for 2022.
- ➔ Enhanced NEW learning and engagement programming including:
  - **Academy for New Provosts** – 30 first-year provosts participated in the pilot year. The program was enhanced for 2022; 30 new provosts met virtually for eight months followed by an in-person gathering in July.
  - **Student Success Institute** – Innovative program designed to support provosts to effectively lead and implement the type of transformational change necessary to meet the evolving needs of today's increasingly diverse student body; 19 provosts participated in the pilot year and 21 provosts are in the 2022 cohort.
  - **Dare to Lead™** – Introduced pilot program Dare to Lead, an empirically based courage building program based on the research of Dr. Brené Brown. Additional workshops are planned throughout 2022 and 2023.

## Policy and Advocacy


- ➔ Successfully urged Congress to appropriate first dollars in FY22 for two important federal grant programs: a new \$5 million for Postsecondary Student Success Grants to support colleges and universities with a high number of low-income and first-generation students and \$8 million for the Hawkins Centers of Excellence to support schools of education at Hispanic-serving institutions, historically Black colleges and universities, and other minority-serving institutions.
- ➔ Continued to advocate before the administration of President Joe Biden and Congress to request the doubling of Pell Grants to \$13,000 a year, to allow undocumented students to be eligible for Title IV federal student aid programs and supported the restitution of Pell Grant eligibility for prison education programs.
- ➔ Engaged multiple congressional offices and committee staff on several legislative proposals with potentially significant impact on public regional comprehensive institutions, including the FY22 budget reconciliation, infrastructure funding, and the USICA/America COMPETES bills.
- ➔ Worked with sector stakeholders and members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate to introduce important educator preparation legislation to strengthen schools of education and diversify the teaching corps.
- ➔ Engaged with federal agencies including the Department of Education, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Office of Management and Budget in response to a plethora of regulatory proposals and actions, including the first-ever rules for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), updates to the gainful employment and veterans' education benefits rules, foreign gift reporting as well as proposed rules on transcript withholding, ability to benefit, and the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.

## Subject Matter Expertise

- ➔ **Stewards of Place** – AASCU launched the 20th anniversary refresh of the seminal piece *Stepping Forward as Stewards of Place: A Guide for Leading Public Engagement at State Colleges and Universities* during the 2021 annual meeting. Co-chaired by Mildred García and Ashish Vaidya, and in partnership with a presidential task force and the Alliance for Research on Regional Colleges, the new *Stewards of Place* will be released at the AASCU 2022 Annual Conference, with a policy brief and a practitioner guide to follow in early 2023.
- ➔ **AASCU Postsecondary Value Commission Task Force** – With a call to action from our past chair, Charles L. Welch, and with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, AASCU is poised to amplify the promising practices that connect AASCU members' activities with the Postsecondary Value Commission Action Agenda. The presidential task force is led by Mildred García and Charles Welch and shepherded by Susan Borrego.
- ➔ Continue to bring thought leadership and subject matter expertise to members through robust corporate partnership program and expanding partnership program to increase revenue for AASCU and enrich programming for members.
- ➔ With the leadership of its executive director, Matthew Ceppi, AASCU Consulting advises university leaders on strategy, leadership effectiveness, and institutional capacity. In 2022, we added a number of new consultants and we are serving several new AASCU members, impacting the transformational change for new clients and increasing revenue for AASCU.



- The Grants Resource Center (GRC) hosted its 2022 GRC Virtual Funding Summit in April 2022.
- GRC was also involved in several important events including the Fort Valley State University's (GA) 15th Annual Grantsmanship Training and Recognition Institute, offered joint webinars with AASCU colleagues in Government Relations and International Education focused on TRIO programs and USDA funding respectively, and the Texas Christian University's Grantsmanship Workshop.
- Added 30 new proposals to the Funded Proposal Library while maintaining close to 1,600 funding opportunities in the GRC GrantSearch database.

## AASCU by the Numbers



With a membership of **315 institutions and 22 system/state offices** in the U.S. and U.S. territories, **AASCU** institutions comprise **39%** of the nation's 802 public four-year institutions.

**AASCU** institutions enroll **3.2 million** undergraduate students, or **34%** of the nation's **9.5 million** undergraduate students at public four-year institutions.





**AASCU** institutions award more than 580,000 bachelor's degrees, or **42%** of the more than **1.3 million** bachelor's degrees awarded by public four-year institutions.



**AASCU** institutions educate **the new majority**— first-generation, low-income, and/or students of color.

**35%** of undergraduates at **AASCU** institutions receive **Pell Grants**.

Of the total percentage of **Pell undergraduates** enrolled at all public four-year colleges and universities, approximately **43%** are from institutions that are **represented by AASCU**.

*AASCU membership data is of June 2022.  
AASCU analysis of 2020-21 institutional characteristics, 12-month enrollment, and student financial aid.*

# AASCU Partners

This year would not be possible without our partners, who are deeply committed to our collective work.

- Academic Partnerships
- Academic Search
- Ad Astra
- American Academic Leadership Institute
- Aramark
- Ascendium
- The Aspen Institute
- Association of College and University Educators
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Chartwells
- Civitas Learning
- Collaboratory
- Constructive Dialogue Institute
- EAB
- Ford Foundation
- Give Pulse
- Gray Associates
- Guild Education
- LeaderShape
- Lumina Foundation
- Mainstay
- Make the Connection (Reingold Marketing Firm)
- Nasdaq
- *The New York Times*
- QASPIR (Qedex)
- The Registry
- ReUp
- Spartan Medical
- St. Cloud State University
- Strada Collaborative
- StraighterLine
- Student Opportunity Center
- TIAA
- Transforming Solutions, Inc.
- Up to Us
- U.S. Census Bureau
- Watermark
- Wiley University Services
- World101 from the Council on Foreign Relations



Published October 2022  
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DRA