



Shaping Our Mission



1961

AASCU was founded as an evolution of the Association of Teacher Education Institutions to address the needs of the growing higher education sector.

1960

1962

AASCU acquired its first offices and **Walter E. Hager** agreed to serve as part-time executive secretary.

1964

"Challenge to Change," the first large study of AASCU member institutions, was conducted.

The board of directors met on **Captiva Island, FL**, and developed nine proposals that shaped AASCU's projects and mission for decades.

Allan W. Ostar was selected as the first full-time executive director; the title was later changed to "president."



1970

1972

The first **Distinguished Alumnus Award** was presented to President Lyndon B. Johnson, a graduate of Southwest Texas State University, now Texas State University.



1979

AASCU began its **Spouse/ Partner Program** for spouses and partners of university presidents and chancellors.

OSTAR MEETING
PRESIDENT JOHNSON
IN THE OVAL OFFICE.
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中国教育国际交流协会
CHINA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

1975

AASCU was the first U.S. higher education association invited to the People's Republic of China, leading to the establishment of the **China Education Association for International Exchange** in 1981.

1980

1985

AASCU published **"Minorities in Higher Education,"** a study that was regularly quoted in the media and referenced by policymakers in the years that followed.

The **Task Force on Economic Development** was established to help AASCU institutions initiate involvement in economic development activities.





FORMER FIRST LADY
ROSALYNN CARTER
RECEIVING AASCU'S
DISTINGUISHED
ALUMNUS AWARD
IN 1987.

Becoming AASCU



1986

AASCU established the **National Commission on the Role and Future of State Colleges and Universities**, chaired by former U.S. Secretary of Education Terrel H. Bell. The commission also included then-Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton.

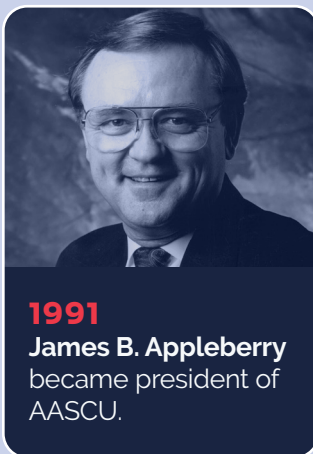
1987

The **Christa McAuliffe Excellence in Teacher Education Award** was established.

1990

1991

James B. Appleberry became president of AASCU.



1999

Constantine W. (Deno) Curris became president of AASCU.



1997

AASCU spearheaded the effort to **save funding for Title XI**, the Urban Community Service Grant Program.

2000

1989

University system executives were granted full AASCU membership, giving them the right to vote and hold office in the association.

1990

AASCU established the **New Presidents Academy**.

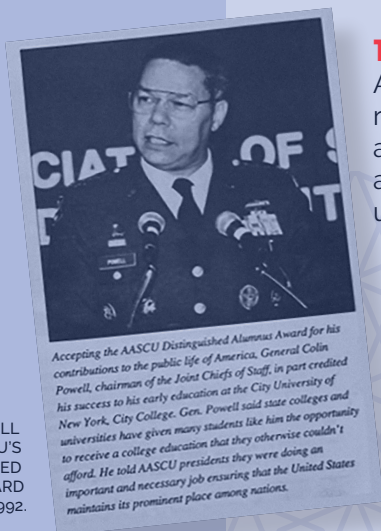
1998

AASCU partnered with three other higher education associations to purchase the former **Washington-Times Herald** building as its headquarters.



1992

AASCU began a national retention project to assist states in improving academic success for undergraduate students.



GEN. COLIN POWELL
RECEIVING AASCU'S
DISTINGUISHED
ALUMNUS AWARD
IN 1992.

1999

AASCU announced the **Office of Teacher Education**.

1999

AASCU launched the **Millennium Leadership Initiative**.





2000

AASCU created the **Task Force on Public Engagement**, which focused on the institutionalization of public engagement throughout universities.

The **Sino-US CHEPD 1+2+1 program** was launched as an association-wide exchange program with China.

2002

AASCU partnered with the China Education Association for International Exchange to establish the **Leadership Training Project** for university administrators.



2003

In partnership with The New York Times, AASCU began the **American Democracy Project**.

2007

Liberia turned to AASCU for help in rebuilding their higher education system.

2004

AASCU launched the **Making Place Matter** pilot project, aimed at cultivating state colleges and universities as stewards of their regions.



2009

AASCU and the Council of Independent Colleges established the **Executive Leadership Academy** with support from the American Academic Leadership Initiative.

Muriel A. Howard became AASCU's first female president, and the first African American to lead one of the six presidentially based higher education associations in Washington, D.C.



2005

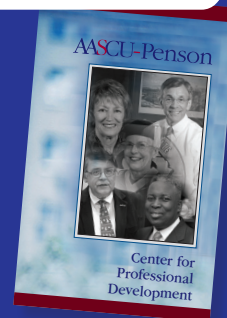
AASCU launched its magazine, **Public Purpose**, which published its last issue in 2019.

Public Purpose
The Magazine of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities

2013

AASCU launched the **AASCU-Penson Center for Professional Development** (now AASCU Consulting) to further support institutional leaders in managing the broad range of strategic and organizational challenges.

AASCU-Penson
Center for Professional Development



2010

AASCU began the **Red Balloon Project**, a national initiative to reimagine and redesign undergraduate education.

2012

AASCU launched the **Becoming a Provost Academy**.

2010

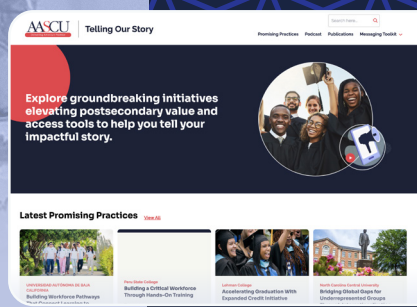
2011

AASCU released its "**AASCU Presidents' Perceptions Study: Future Outlook and Community Contributions.**"



2015

AASCU launched its **Emerging Leaders Program**, expanding the association's commitment to preparing future leaders.



2022
The **AASCU Telling Our Story** website launched to elevate, support, and transform postsecondary institutions.

2016
AASCU launched "**Opportunities for All**," a national marketing campaign to highlight the value, affordability, and economic mobility provided by regional public universities.

2018
Mildred García became president of AASCU, the first Latina to lead one of the six presidentially based higher education associations in Washington, D.C.



2022
The **Recommitting to Stewardship of Place** series was published, providing an updated framework for stewardship in a new postsecondary landscape.

2026
Headquarters relocated to **1350 Eye Street NW**.

2023
The inaugural **AASCU on the Hill** was held to bring members together to advocate for regional public universities.

2020

2026

2017
AASCU's **Grants Resource Center** celebrated 50 years of providing vital information and expertise on external funding to member colleges and universities.



2021
The **Aspen-AASCU Transfer Student Success Intensive** launched with AACC.

AASCU was one of six associations selected as **Intermediaries for Scale** by the Gates Foundation.



2024
Charles L. Welch became president of AASCU.

The **Department Chair Leadership Institute** launched.

AASCU's **Millennium Leadership Initiative** celebrated 25 years.

2026
AASCU partnered with Ithaka S+R to launch the **Rural Student Success Network**.



2020
AASCU launched the **Academy for New Provosts**.

AASCU sold its building at 1307 New York Avenue NW, and moved to **1717 Rhode Island Avenue NW**.

Celebrating 50 Years