



[Home](#)

Making Excellence Inclusive

Making Excellence Inclusive is AAC&U's guiding principle for access, student success, and high-quality learning. It is designed to help colleges and universities integrate diversity, equity, and educational quality efforts into their missions and institutional operations.

Through the vision and practice of inclusive excellence, AAC&U calls for higher education to address diversity, inclusion, and equity as critical to the well-being of democratic culture. Making excellence inclusive is thus an active process through which colleges and universities achieve excellence in learning, teaching, student development, institutional functioning, and engagement in local and global communities.

A high-quality, practical liberal education should be the standard of excellence for all students. The action of making excellence inclusive requires that we uncover inequities in student success, identify effective educational practices, and build such practices organically for sustained institutional change.

Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity: Core Principles

AAC&U endeavors to develop "equity-minded practitioners" who are willing to engage in the necessary, and sometimes difficult, conversations and decision-making that can lead to transformational change for student learning and achievement.

Diversity: Individual differences (e.g., personality, prior knowledge, and life experiences) and group/social differences (e.g., race/ethnicity, class, gender, sexual orientation, country of origin, and ability as well as cultural, political, religious, or other affiliations)

Inclusion: The active, intentional, and ongoing engagement with diversity—in the curriculum, in the cocurriculum, and in communities (intellectual, social, cultural, geographical) with which individuals might connect—in ways that increase awareness, content knowledge, cognitive sophistication, and empathic understanding of the complex ways individuals interact within systems and institutions

Equity: The creation of opportunities for historically underserved populations to have equal access to and participate in educational programs that are capable of closing the achievement gaps in student success and completion

Equity-Mindedness: "The term 'Equity-Mindedness' refers to the perspective or mode of thinking exhibited by practitioners who call attention to patterns of inequity in student outcomes. These practitioners are willing to take personal and institutional responsibility for the success of their students, and critically reassess their own practices. It also requires that practitioners are race-conscious and aware of the social and historical context of exclusionary practices in American Higher Education." ([Center for Urban Education, University of Southern California](#))

WHAT'S NEW

Events

[Strategies for Supporting Faculty Planning to Advance Curricular Coherence: Four Case Studies](#)

RELATED PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

[Assessing High-Impact Learning for Underserved Students](#)

Continuing Research on High-Impact Practices A Mixed Method Analysis of High-Impact Practices on Student Learning for Historically... [Read more](#)

[Developing a Community College Student Roadmap](#)

Developing a Community College Student Roadmap is designed to help community colleges create robust and proactive programs of academic support—tied... [Read more](#)

[Give Students a Compass](#)

A Tri-State LEAP Partnership for College Learning, General Education, and Underserved Student Success Give Students a Compass (2008-2011) helped... [Read more](#)

[AAC&U Inclusive Excellence Commission](#)

Representing the first stage of a new partnership between both organizations, AAC&U and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) are pleased to... [Read more](#)

[General Education Maps and Markers \(GEMs\)](#)

Because it is the nation's largest educational program, involving virtually all degree-seeking students, general education provides the site and the... [Read more](#)

[Teaching to Increase Diversity and Equity in STEM \(TIDES\)](#)

Announcing Publication Culturally Responsive Strategies for Reforming STEM Higher Education: Turning the TIDES on Inequity... [Read more](#)

[Transparency and Problem-Centered Learning](#)

AAC&U's LEAP project —“Transparency and Problem-Centered Learning”—is designed to further existing knowledge about the relationship between... [Read more](#)

[See All Programs](#)



© Association of American Colleges and Universities
1818 R Street NW | Washington, DC 20009
202-387-3760 | information@aacu.org
[Privacy Policy](#)



[JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST](#)