



**Core Commitments:**  
Educating Students for Personal and Social  
Responsibility

## **No Longer Optional: Educating for Personal & Social Responsibility**

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## Making the Case for Educating for Personal and Social Responsibility

- Colleges and universities in the U.S. agree on essential learning outcomes for the 21<sup>st</sup> century

# The Essential Learning Outcomes

Beginning in school, and continuing at successively higher levels across their college studies, students should prepare for twenty-first-century challenges by gaining:

- **Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World**
- **Intellectual and Practical Skills**
- **Personal and Social Responsibility**
- **Integrative Learning**

## Essential Learning Outcome # 3

- **Personal and Social Responsibility**
  - Civic knowledge and engagement—local and global
  - Intercultural knowledge and competence
  - Ethical reasoning and action
  - Foundations and skills for lifelong learning

*Anchored through active involvement with diverse communities and real-world challenges*

## Five Dimensions of Personal and Social Responsibility

- **Striving for Excellence**
- **Cultivating Personal and Academic Integrity**
- **Contributing to a Larger Community**
- **Taking Seriously the Perspectives of Others**
- **Developing Competence in Ethical and Moral Reasoning**

## Core Commitments Goals

- **Orchestrate a proactive, high visibility initiative**
- **Serve as a catalyst for fostering ethical and civic outcomes of a contemporary liberal education**
- **Invent more purposeful, transparent, and developmental pathways for students to acquire new capacities**
- **Generate research tools and evidence that reveals what kind of new capacities students have actually gained our institutions**

## Components of Core Commitments Initiative

- Mobilize Presidential Leadership
- Identify a Leadership Consortium of Colleges and Universities
- Generate a Widespread National Conversation
- Expand the Network of Faculty, Staff, and Student Advocates
- Measure Progress in Student Learning

## Personal and Social Responsibility Institutional Inventory

- A new AAC&U instrument to determine where people perceive PSR education resides
- Used with pre- and post-survey dialogues across campus constituent
- Inventory surveys four different groups: students, faculty, student affairs staff, and academic administrators
- Illuminates congruence/dissonance across groups and campus dimensions

## Bringing Theory to Practice

- Explores how engaged forms of learning requiring active student involvement and reflection contribute to the resiliency and health of students
- Seeks to tap the fundamental academic strengths of institutions to address the intellectual, emotional, and civic development of students

## Bringing Theory to Practice

- Grants of \$1,724,875 to support:
  - two research Intensive Campus Sites
  - eleven Demonstration Sites
  - twenty-eight Program Start-Up grants
  - twenty-seven mini-grants
  - involved over 300 colleges and universities in BTtoP work