

Liberal Education & America's Promise

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EXCELLENCE FOR EVERYONE AS A NATION GOES TO COLLEGE

Give Students a Compass:

A Tri-State LEAP Partnership for College Learning, General Education, and Underserved Student Success

Give Students a Compass brings AAC&U together with the California State University System, the Oregon University System, and the University of Wisconsin System—to strengthen student learning. The project is a collaborative: systems and campuses working together to re-map general education, take new approaches to program design and assessment, and concentrate attention on the success of students from underserved groups. Compass models collaboration in large systems where students are highly mobile. Hence the metaphor for the project: We need to give students a compass so that they can navigate successfully through complex college and university systems and so that they achieve high-quality learning outcomes as they attain the baccalaureate degree.

The project is part of AAC&U's signature initiative, **Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP)**, which fosters campus action, public advocacy, and useful evidence to make the aims and outcomes of liberal education a guiding framework for all students' educational achievement—in professional programs and arts and sciences fields alike. The title of this project, **Give Students a Compass**, is taken directly from the Principles of Excellence described in LEAP's influential report, *College Learning for the New Global Century*. Compass is likewise part of AAC&U's **Making Excellence Inclusive** initiative.

LEAP Essential Learning Outcomes

Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World

- Through study in the sciences and mathematics, social sciences, humanities, histories, languages, and the arts

Intellectual and Practical Skills, including

- Inquiry and analysis
- Critical and creative thinking
- Written and oral communication
- Quantitative literacy
- Information literacy
- Teamwork and problem solving

Personal and Social Responsibility, including

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

Integrative and Applied Learning, including

- Synthesis and advanced accomplishment across general and specialized studies

LEAP Principles of Excellence

- Aim High—and Make Excellence Inclusive
- Give Students a Compass
- Teach the Arts of Inquiry and Innovation
- Engage the Big Questions
- Connect Knowledge with Choices and Action
- Foster Civic, Intercultural, and Ethical Learning
- Assess Students' Ability to Apply Learning to Complex Problems

LEAP High-Impact and Effective Educational Practices

- First-Year Seminars and Experiences
- Common Intellectual Experiences
- Learning Communities
- Writing-Intensive Courses
- Collaborative Assignments and Projects
- Undergraduate Research
- Diversity/Global Learning
- Service Learning, Community-Based Learning
- Internships
- Capstone Courses and Projects

For more information about Compass, visit www.aacu.org/compass.

For more information about Making Excellence Inclusive, visit www.aacu.org/inclusive_excellence.

For more information about LEAP, visit www.aacu.org/leap.