Bringing Quality and Equity Together
How Higher Education Leaders—Together—Are Tackling the Deepening Equity Divides

A LEAP* Centennial Forum Sponsored by
the Association of American Colleges & Universities

The Drake Hotel
140 E Walton Place
Chicago, IL 60611

Friday, May 29, 2015

AGENDA

“Students of color and students from low-income families will soon form the majority of the nation’s college-eligible learners. Their fortunes will shape—for better or worse—America’s economic and global future. These students are democracy’s hope and America’s future. They need and deserve the advantages of a horizon-expanding higher education. They need and deserve a twenty-first-century liberal education.”
Carol Geary Schneider, President of AAC&U

This forum is the third in a series of events that AAC&U is sponsoring as part of its Centennial Year. Highlighting quality learning as the next frontier for equity and expanded opportunity, the forum will bring together educational, policy, and civic leaders to examine the learning all college students need to thrive in a knowledge economy and to participate actively and responsibly in a diverse and global society. Participants will examine the sobering evidence that completion levels and access to quality learning remain highly stratified across income and race/ethnicity.

The forum will explore emerging evidence on “what works” in supporting higher levels of underserved student success, and especially the evidence that quality learning leads to increased completion for underserved students. With new research on the value of “guided pathways” now in hand, the forum will feature ways—in both broad-access and selective institutions—that those guided pathways can be catalysts to the hallmark outcomes of a strong liberal—and liberating—education.


*LEAP is an acronym for Liberal Education and America’s Promise, AAC&U’s ongoing effort to provide the most empowering forms of learning to all college students, especially those from underserved communities. Through LEAP, hundreds of institutions and many state systems are making far-reaching educational changes to help all their students—whatever their chosen major field of study—achieve a set of essential learning outcomes that are fundamental to both success in work and problem-solving in democracy.
8:30-9:00 am  Registration Open and Continental Breakfast Available

**Gold Coast Foyer**
Lobby Level

AAC&U’s Centennial Video will be shown in the ballroom, featuring the voices of educators, business leaders, and students at AAC&U member institutions and shining a spotlight on twenty-first-century liberal education practices and institutions at their best.

9:00-9:15 am  Welcome Address

**Welcome Address**

Why Quality Learning in College Has Become an Urgent Equity Imperative

**Gold Coast Room**
Lobby Level

Carol Geary Schneider, President, AAC&U

9:15-9:50 am  Plenary Session

**Plenary Session**

The Quality Premium: College Learning, Access to Opportunity, and the Big Economic Picture

**Gold Coast Room**
Lobby Level

Michael McPherson, President, The Spencer Foundation

9:50-10:45 am  Plenary Session

We’re Losing Ground on Equity and Quality: The Sobering Evidence from State and National Studies

**Gold Coast Room**
Lobby Level

Chair: Tia McNair, Senior Director for Student Success, AAC&U
James Applegate, Executive Director, Illinois Board of Education
Ramón Gutiérrez, The Preston and Sterling Morton Distinguished Service Professor of History, The University of Chicago

10:45-11:00 am  Coffee Break

11:00 am -12:00 pm  Plenary Session

Remapping the Pathways: Taking Action on “What Works” for Equity and Quality

**Gold Coast Room**
Lobby Level

Morton Schapiro, President, Northwestern University
Sylvia M. Jenkins, President, Moraine Valley Community College
Douglas D. Baker, President, Northern Illinois University
Eboo Patel, President and Founder, Interfaith Youth Core

12:00-1:45 pm  Luncheon and Address

From Evidence to Shared Vision and Action: What It Will Take to Braid Equity and Quality Together

**Grand Ballroom**
Lobby Level

Elaine P. Maimon, President, Governors State University

Governors State University recently won national recognition from Fidelity Investments and the American Council on Education for its pace-setting efforts to create incentives and guided pathways for first-generation students to complete both an associate’s degree and a bachelor’s degree. GSU is working in partnership with 17 community colleges.

1:45-2:45 pm  Roundtable Discussions

Bringing Equity and Quality Together: A Campus Guide for Self-Study, Planning and Action

**Gold Coast Room**
Lobby Level

Participants will work in facilitated groups to identify where their institutions are now in relation to quality and equity, and on the most promising directions for next-level planning and action.

2:45-3:00 pm  Coffee Break
3:00-4:15 pm  **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**Charting Guided Pathways for Quality Learning and Increased Student Success**

Note: Each concurrent session explores designs for “guided pathways” that braid equity and quality together.

- **What is the Evidence that High-Impact Practices—a Quality Strategy—Will Also Work for Equity?**
  - **Gold Coast Room**
  - Chair: Tia McNair, Senior Director for Student Success, AAC&U
  - Caryn Chaden, Associate Provost for Student Success and Accreditation, DePaul University
  - David Kalsbeek, Senior Vice President for Enrollment Management and Marketing, DePaul University
  - Jennifer Thborington Springer, Director, RISE (Research, International Experiences, Service Learning, and Experiential Learning), Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

- **How Can General Education—Vertical and/or Inverted—Become an Empowering Pathway for Deeper Learning and Underserved Student Success?**
  - **Superior Room**
  - Chair: Carol Geary Schneider, President, AAC&U
  - Deborah Bordelon, Provost, Governors State University
  - Lane Earns, Provost, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh
  - Joe J. Foy, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, University of Wisconsin Colleges

- **How Does Civic Learning Contribute to Equity and Increased Completion?**
  - **Huron Room**
  - Chair: Linda Chen, Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Indiana University South Bend
  - Patrick Green, Director, Center for Experiential Learning, Loyola University Chicago
  - Dick Simpson, Professor of Political Science, University of Illinois at Chicago

3:00-4:15 pm  **WORKSHOP**

**Engaging the Charged Climate on Race/Ethnicity, Poverty, and Restricted Opportunity**

- **Venetian Room**
  - Alma Clayton-Pedersen, CEO, Emeritus Consulting Group and Senior Scholar for Making Excellence Inclusive, AAC&U

Responding to the national probe of brutality, racism, and communities left behind, workshop participants will explore ways that educators can take action on their campuses to move beyond a “teachable moment” to include analysis and action related to systems and structures that restrict opportunity.

4:30-5:30 pm  **PLENARY SESSION**

**(How) Can These Priorities Converge? Digital Unbundling, Well-Guided Learning Pathways, and the Quality/Equity Imperative**

- **Gold Coast Room**
  - Chair: Carol Geary Schneider, AAC&U
  - Daniel Greenstein, Director of Postsecondary Success Strategy, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
  - Sara Goldrick-Rab, Professor of Educational Policy Studies and Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

5:30-6:30 pm  **RECEPTION**

- **French Room**
  - Please join us for hors d’oeuvres and informal conversation.

*Loyola University Chicago and the University of Illinois at Chicago were active participants in AAC&U’s Chicago Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement (CLDE) Action Collaborative project supported by the Robert R. McCormick Foundation between 2012 and 2014.*