

# ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

## AAC&U STRATEGIC GOALS

- Champion faculty-engaged, evidence-based sustainable models and strategies for promoting **quality** in undergraduate education.
- Advance **equity** across higher education in service to academic excellence and social justice.
- Lead institutions and communities in articulating and demonstrating the value of liberal education for work, life, global citizenship, and democracy.
- Catalyze reform in higher education to emphasize discovery and innovation as fundamental aspects of a liberal education.



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## WHO THEY ARE

AAC&U is the leading national association dedicated to advancing the vitality and public standing of liberal education by making quality and equity the foundations for excellence in undergraduate education in service to democracy. Its members—as institutions and as individuals—are committed to extending the advantages of a liberal education to all students, regardless of academic specialization or intended career. The 1400 institutional members of AAC&U include accredited public and private colleges, community colleges, research universities, and comprehensive universities of every type and size.

## WHAT THEY DO

### AN AAC&U SIGNATURE INITIATIVE: MAKING EXCELLENCE INCLUSIVE

This initiative is designed to help colleges and universities integrate diversity, equity, and educational quality into their missions and institutional operations. AAC&U endeavors to develop “equity-minded practitioners” 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 cultural, political, religious, or other affiliations).

*Inclusion:* The active, intentional, and ongoing engagement with diversity...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 underrepresented populations to have equal access to and participate in educational programs that are capable of closing the achievement gaps in student success and completion.



## RESEARCH & RESOURCES

- <https://www.aacu.org/>
- <https://www.aacu.org/making-excellence-inclusive>

