



PRESIDENTS FORUM

FOR INNOVATION

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

The Presidents Forum is a non-profit 501(c)(3) membership organization of college and university presidents and chancellors as well as leading education stakeholders committed to reinventing higher education for our diverse student population - traditional, non-traditional, and adult learners. We are dedicated to the continuous reinvention of higher education and exploring transformative education models by sharing knowledge, implementing best practices, and making policy recommendations.



REINVENTING THE DELIVERY OF HIGHER EDUCATION STARTS WITH A FEW FOUNDATIONAL BELIEFS

- STUDENTS COME FIRST.
True innovation advances social and economic mobility, lifelong learning, and empowers student learners.
- COMPLEX SYSTEMS ONLY CHANGE WITH COLLABORATION.
When we collaborate with leaders, complex problems turn into systems where students can learn and thrive.
- CHANGE CAN HAPPEN RAPIDLY.
The pace of innovation can match technology-driven change and student-employer expectations.
- INNOVATION CAN BENEFIT THE ENTIRE SYSTEM.
We set a high bar for impact that benefits the nation's higher education system.
- IMPACT IS MEASURED BY OUTCOMES.
We measure our work by the impact it has for students, institutions, co-collaborators, system participants, and the Presidents Forum.
- DIVERSITY IS CRITICAL.
We believe in including diverse institutions committed to serving all learners.

MEMBERSHIP

The Presidents Forum members include leaders from all sectors of higher education: private institutions, public institutions, and community colleges representing fifteen institutions and more than three million learners. Reasonable membership fees are collected from institutions and education partners.





MAKING A LASTING CHANGE

As we strive to reinvent higher education, the Presidents Forum is initiating sector-wide “change” projects that explore and ameliorate critical issues that a single institution cannot address alone, and directly impact affordability, access, outcomes, employability and equity for all learners.

SERIES OF CONVENINGS – REINVENTING HIGHER EDUCATION

In fall 2020, the Presidents Forum initiated a series of convenings to help higher education re-center around the needs of learners and help them succeed in today's rapidly changing knowledge economy. Rooted in the belief that higher education is too often ill-equipped to respond quickly to the challenges of the day, the purpose of the convening series was to bring together Presidents Forum members, students, and other leading innovators to facilitate opportunities to collaborate and influence large-scale change—both by increasing visibility to the future and, importantly, by creating actionable change.

2020/2021 CONVENING HIGHLIGHTS

The Presidents Forum developed an ambitious new framework for retooling higher education around the needs of an increasingly diverse generation of students and changing workforce needs. The [Learners First Framework](#) names ten critical areas of consensus across the Presidents Forum's diverse membership and calls on institutions to undergo a culture shift to better understand and meet the diverse objectives of today's learners and create equitable pathways to economic opportunity.

The series surfaced insights and best practices from Presidents Forum members and stakeholders and produced resources and tools for peer institutions.

- ▶ [Transforming Together: Aligning Higher Education To The Changing World Of Work](#)
- ▶ [Innovation in Spite of Policy: Promising Models that Highlight the Path to Higher Education Reform](#)
- ▶ [Learner-Centered Innovation: Key Considerations For The Next Wave](#)

2022 CONVENING FOCUS

To build on the momentum and successes of our Learners First convening series initiative, the Presidents Forum is continuing these forums and spotlighting the adult learner. This convening series will explore how higher education institutions can best re-engage students who have lost faith in postsecondary education as a driver of economic mobility and either dropped out or chosen not to attend. Our goal is for institutions to better understand how to remove barriers that prevent adult learners from applying to, enrolling in, and graduating from higher education and landing well-paying jobs.

ADVANCING INNOVATION

BLOCKCHAIN INNOVATION CHALLENGE

The Presidents Forum partnered with the American Council on Education (ACE) to manage the Department of Education's Blockchain Innovation Challenge. The challenge sought technology-enabled solutions that reoriented the education and employment ecosystem around the individuals that they aim to serve. It invited teams to articulate a vision and design pilots that addressed an ecosystem-first designed approach driving interoperability, social mobility, and learner control. The [Education Blockchain Initiative Final Report](#) provides overviews from the four challenge winners and their outcomes and shares lessons learned.

POTENTIAL TO IMPACT

The Presidents Forum is also supporting ACE's work with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to conduct a series of convenings discussing how supporters of blockchain technology and learning and employment records can better connect with end users of the technologies. The purpose of the convenings is to expand the opportunity to engage and focus on end users of breakthrough innovations such as blockchain and generate a final report with recommendations for next steps.



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