

AAC&U's Centennial Year 2015

On Behalf of the Nation's Diverse College Students,
AAC&U's Centennial Year Will Focus On:

Liberal Education, Global Flourishing and the Equity Imperative

Highlights of the Centennial Year Plan

A Unifying Theme for the Centennial

In partnership with employer, civic and educational leaders from all parts of American society, AAC&U will explore:

- What today's students need—and should expect—from a 21st-century college education, for economic opportunity, global acumen, and a just democracy;
- How educators across the nation are re-forming college learning:
 - In STEM, career and technical fields, *and* the liberal arts
 - To provide *all* students with a broad and globally engaged liberal education
 - Blending high tech and high touch to strengthen quality of learning
- The equity and inequity challenges—in policy and practice alike—that impede both “re-formings” AND students' achievement of the learning they need; the persistence of deep stratifications not only in access to higher education but also in the different kinds of learning (broad or narrow; purposeful or fragmented, shallow or deep) that different students encounter.
- The high impact innovations that can raise student achievement, reduce inequities, and make inclusive excellence a widely shared priority.

ALL the Centennial events and activities outlined below will address this unifying theme, tied directly to AAC&U's mission. This theme will provide a focus for the Centennial year, including its bookend 2015 and 2016 Annual Meetings. In addition, the Centennial will launch LEAP 2.0—next-level efforts to support higher levels of student success and make excellence inclusive. **Note:** Research on equity supported by the Gates GEMs/VALUE grant to AAC&U will be addressed across all the Signature Centennial Events outlined below. Policy leaders and trustees/regents will be included in most of the events.

1. Signature Centennial Events

- The 2015 Annual Meeting and Centennial Symposium on America's Global Future: Celebrating the centennial; launching LEAP 2.0; focused on college learning and global interconnection; foregrounding the equity issues, evidence, and opportunities. This meeting will include the Centennial Celebration described below.
- Centennial Public Opinion Research: Exploring how college should prepare graduates for a world of global and civic interconnection; probing employer perceptions that many college students lack both global knowledge and 21st-century skills. Pending funding: a survey of students' own expectations about what they need to learn in college.

- 3 Invitational Teach-Ins on Global Flourishing and the Equity Imperative:
Each event will include social media, online, and face-to-face components and will be co-sponsored with AAC&U member presidents and their institutions. Topics for the teach-ins are outlined in #1 above. Possible locations for teach-ins include:
 - Chicago (where AAC was founded);
 - Miami, where Miami-Dade has embraced the Equity Imperative; and
 - California, where CSU is making a major investment in “High Impact Practices” intended to raise underserved student success.
- “LEAP 2.0” Forums:
Held at each of AAC&U’s 2015 Network conferences and summer institutes. The 2015 Network conferences will be held in Kansas City, Ft. Lauderdale, San Diego, and Seattle. See notes on LEAP 2.0 below.
- Centennial Celebration:
The Centennial Celebration will be held in conjunction with 2015 Annual Meeting and will be open to all annual meeting participants. The Centennial Celebration will celebrate LEAP and will headline the family of new or expanded initiatives we describe below as LEAP 2.0. The celebration will feature member campuses and successful recent graduates that illustrate the kind of work LEAP 2.0 seeks to advance, possibly celebrated through a video.
- The 2016 Annual Meeting
Culminating the year-long Centennial on Liberal Education and the Equity Imperative; focusing intensively on what it will take to “make excellence inclusive;” heralding a new era of leadership for AAC&U’s mission.

2. Centennial Leaders

AAC&U Board of Directors; LEAP National Leadership Council; selected national leaders; who will speak at signature centennial events, participate in online forums, and/or publish opinion pieces on liberal education and the equity imperative.

3. Partnerships

Coordinate as appropriate—deploying Centennial Leaders—with events offered by AAC&U’s key partners: ACAD; Bringing Theory to Practice; The Aspen Institute.

Collaborate selectively with Phi Beta Kappa, whose 1776 campaign on behalf of the arts and sciences will culminate in December, 2015.

4. LEAP 2.0—highlighting and “launching” AAC&U’s next century of leadership

A portfolio of new initiatives—featured and praised at our Centennial Celebration, across the 2015 Annual Meeting, and at all 2015 AAC&U Network conferences and summer institutes—that are designed to make college learning more purposeful, more inclusive, more digitally adept, and more visibly engaged with America’s global challenges.

5. Publications and social media; media outreach

Interviews with selected key leaders on AAC/AAC&U’s Past and Present (*Liberal Education*). Media outreach and direct involvement in each of the signature events, including the Centennial public opinion research, and AAC&U’s Network conferences.