

UNIVERSITY INNOVATION ALLIANCE

OVERVIEW

The University Innovation Alliance (UIA) is a consortium of 11 large public research universities committed to the belief that every American, regardless of socioeconomic background, should have access to an affordable, high-quality college degree.

Because UIA member institutions serve students spanning the geographic, economic, and social diversity of our country, we are at the forefront of America's race to regain its competitive edge and increase economic opportunity and mobility. Many of our universities have been recognized for aggressively driving innovations to serve more students with quality programs at sustainable cost. Now we will work together, leveraging our experience and strengths to maximize our collective impact.

The Alliance's primary objective is to significantly improve graduation rates for all students regardless of socioeconomic background. To advance toward that goal, UIA member universities will act as an innovation cluster, developing and testing new initiatives, sharing data, and scaling best practices across the Alliance. In testing our initiatives, we will publicly set metrics by which to measure our progress.

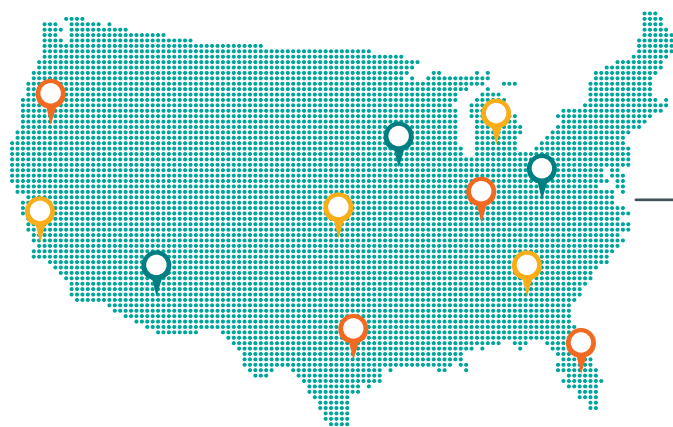
OUR WORK

The project will be led and championed by the Presidents and Chancellors of UIA member institutions. The Presidents have selected an Executive Director to manage the initiative on a day-to-day basis, supported by Academic Innovation Officers representing each member institution (one officer per institution).

We will engage in a series of three structured and distinct categories of work over the next three to five years:

- **Identifying new solutions:** We will identify and verify the effectiveness of new methods of improving student success rates;
- **Scaling proven innovations:** We will take innovations already showing good results on one campus and transfer them to other interested campuses, with the goal of developing an innovation transfer model that can be used throughout higher education;
- **Communication and diffusion:** We will share and promote good ideas by bringing our experiences, results, and recommendations to the broader higher education sector, policy leaders, and the general public.

Making sure our innovations are scalable is critical. Ultimately, we want other institutions to adopt, adapt, and refine UIA innovations, or be inspired to develop great solutions of their own that will be shared.



MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

Arizona State University	Purdue University
Georgia State University	University of California, Riverside
Iowa State University	University of Central Florida
Michigan State University	University of Kansas
Oregon State University	University of Texas at Austin
The Ohio State University	

In addition to our common goal of improving outcomes for all students, each institution will set goals appropriate to its state and region. The Alliance will also contribute to the national higher education discussion by developing common metrics that improve the measurement and reporting of student progress and completion rates across socioeconomic categories.

WHAT DISTINGUISHES THE UIA FROM OTHER INITIATIVES?

The UIA is particularly well positioned to advance this project, in part because each Alliance institution has a history of national service and an egalitarian commitment to the social mobility of our diverse student populations.

This is the first time a group of large public research universities has self-organized across state and conference lines specifically to test and scale solutions to problems of access and graduation in higher education. Finding the best students and achieving the highest rankings is inherently competitive, so meaningful collaboration between universities is not the norm. We aim to break through the silos that have hindered innovation and prevented ideas from being shared broadly across the higher education landscape.

As a federation of universities committed to collective change, the UIA has the potential to balance healthy competition with shared progress, "raising the game" of all the institutions in higher education. By testing solutions together, and carefully measuring and sharing results, the UIA will be able to tell the nation what works and what is scalable with a unique level of confidence. For universities, this means spending less time on unproven strategies. For students, this means universities will work even harder for their success and lower the cost of a degree.