Innovation and the Promise of Higher Education

Higher education is an important driver of individual and economic advancement in the U.S. Although colleges and universities strive for student success in general, emerging innovations in higher education have developed more effective ways to deliver on the core goals of higher ed. *Discover new approaches to affirm the value proposition of your institution and the higher education enterprise.*

Higher education produces a well-educated workforce.

Since **93 percent of U.S. employers** value soft skills, such as critical thinking, communication, and problem solving, colleges and universities are uniquely positioned to prepare individuals for high-skilled careers. Institutions are augmenting students' time to degree completion by considering prior learning experiences, credit recommendations, and competency-based education.

Institutions use data to meet student needs.

Data-driven institutional improvements are greatly enhancing students' learning experiences while presenting them with new information to inform their career choices. Popular majors like business, health, and STEM often earn the highest wages, and **80 percent of students** choose majors with a direct career path. Data can also inform early interventions, improving academic and personal support for students.

Colleges and universities are improving transfer pathways.

Students who transferred **90 percent or more of their community college credits were more than twice as likely to graduate than students transferring 50 percent or less**. Many institutions are amending their credit transfer policies to support students, no matter their college trajectory.

Innovation can help ensure timely degree completion.

Institutions are working to ensure that students are academically, financially, logistically, and socially supported to complete their degree requirements, implementing new or revised high-impact student support programs, such as first-year experiences, learning communities, and undergraduate research and internships.

Innovation improves students' learning outcomes.

Technology-assisted learning, flipped classrooms, and project-based learning are increasingly popular on college and university campuses. These strategies can improve institutions' effectiveness in teaching students, who sometimes respond poorly to traditional teaching methods.