

## Aspen Institute College Excellence Program Announces New Managing Director

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After a highly competitive nationwide search, the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program has named **Pascale Charlot** its new managing director. Charlot brings deep education leadership experience to Aspen, coupled with an enduring and bold commitment to delivering transformative and equitable outcomes to students and communities.

"The College Excellence Program has helped to define what excellence and equity look like across American higher education and has, specifically, helped to elevate and spotlight the potential of the community college sector," said Dan Porterfield, President and CEO of the Aspen Institute. "Charlot's past leadership and experience fuel her belief that these institutions can and must be powerful engines of social mobility, and we're delighted that she is joining the Institute to advance CEP's important work."

Charlot has spent the past decade at Aspen Prize-winning Miami Dade College (MDC), where she most recently served as president of the Kendall campus, the largest of the college's eight. Previously, she was the dean of Miami Dade's Honors College, widely recognized as one of the nation's best. A graduate of Duke University and the University of Michigan Law School, Charlot held leadership roles at both New York University and Rutgers' law schools earlier in her career. Her time in law schools helped her see the value of career-oriented education, providing insights she has applied at the community college level.

"I am delighted that Pascale has chosen to bring her considerable experience in community college and law school leadership to the Aspen Institute," said Josh Wyner, Executive Director of Aspen's College Excellence Program. "Coupled with a deep commitment to equitable student success and strategic organizational capacity, Pascale's substantive expertise makes her an ideal partner in advancing our mission of ensuring that every student succeeds during college so they can fulfill their dreams after graduating."

An alumna of Aspen's year-long Rising President Fellowship, Charlot will play a lead role in developing strategies to build Aspen's network of community college leaders who have completed our fellowships, including over 100 presidents of community colleges that together educate over a million-and-a-half students. Charlot, who was herself a transfer student as an undergraduate, also brings expertise in one of Aspen's core priorities: advancing transfer student success and equity. While leading Miami Dade's Honors College, she developed a new equity pathway that increased the number of first-generation students who went on to attain a bachelor's degree.

Reflecting on the addition of Charlot to the Aspen team, David Jenkins, a senior research scholar at the Community College Research Center, said: “The Aspen Institute’s College Excellence Program has been in the vanguard of preparing leaders equipped to enable community colleges to thrive despite the unprecedented challenges these important institutions face today. So, it is good news indeed that the CEP has added to its team Pascale Charlot, who has herself demonstrated the bold, creative leadership needed to sustain the community college mission into the future.”

In her ten years at Miami Dade College, Charlot has championed the role of the college as a regional hub of equitable talent development that also provides a social mobility ladder for students and families. She pairs a systems-change approach with a student-centered view to fuel transformation—an approach that will support both our leadership development offerings and our research.

“Pascale is a relationship and community builder who understands the power of inclusion and collective action for greater impact,” said Maria Harper-Marinick, one of CEP’s senior fellows and Charlot’s mentor in the Rising President Fellowship. “For her, equity is not just a lens but the work that community colleges are called to embrace and advance. She values the lived experiences that shape perspectives, and will lead with curiosity, appreciative inquiry, and intentionality.”

A passionate advocate for students, Charlot is dedicated to finding nuanced solutions that can help community colleges across the country become truly excellent and equitable. Her orientation and commitment to the critical importance of increasing both graduation rates and post-graduation success could not be more aligned with ours, and we are honored to have her joining our team.

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**The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program** aims to advance higher education practices, policies, and leadership that significantly improve student outcomes, especially for the growing population of low-income students and students of color on American campuses. For more information, visit [www.highered.aspeninstitute.org](http://www.highered.aspeninstitute.org) and [www.linkedin.com/showcase/aspenhighered](http://www.linkedin.com/showcase/aspenhighered), and follow [@AspenHigherEd](https://twitter.com/AspenHigherEd) on Twitter.

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