

# THE ASPEN RISING PRESIDENTS FELLOWSHIP

## **The Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship**

is developing a cadre of exceptional leaders who can transform community colleges to achieve higher levels of student success while maintaining broad access. Each year, Aspen engages a select group of up to 40 fellows for this intensive, ten-month applied executive leadership program, delivered in collaboration with the Stanford Educational Leadership Initiative.

**ASPEN PRESIDENTIAL  
FELLOWSHIP**

 THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

**Stanford**

Educational Leadership  
Initiative

# THE ASPEN RISING PRESIDENTS FELLOWSHIP

## FEATURES OF THE FELLOWSHIP

The Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship provides a perspective and skillset that equips Fellows to become innovative and highly effective leaders of community colleges that achieve exceptional results for students and communities. Fellows will:

- Work with national leaders who are shaping and implementing, at scale, best practices for community college success
- Build a network of forward-thinking peers to support and challenge one another in the pursuit of broad change
- Apply grounded and innovative strategies to meet student success challenges in their home colleges
- Be recognized and promoted as highly promising candidates for future presidencies

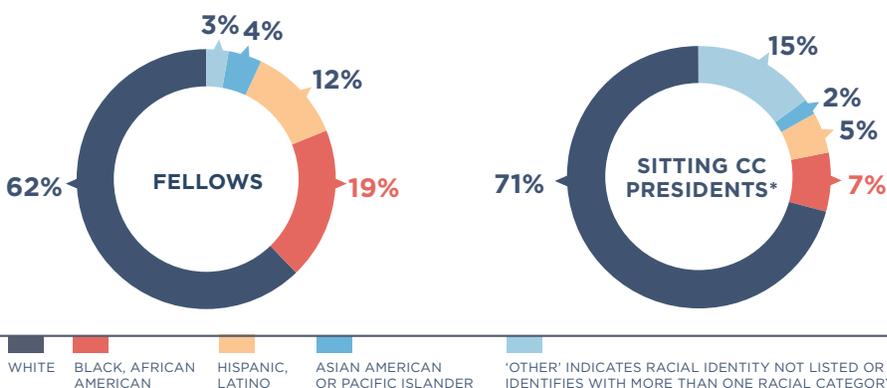
### The ten-month Fellowship includes:

**Three residential seminars** led by Aspen Institute and Stanford University faculty, as well as some of the nation's top community college professionals and higher education experts. Each of the three four-day sessions includes presentations of groundbreaking research, extensive hands-on time working in small groups with peers and mentors, and the opportunity to learn from veteran college leaders.

**A capstone project** that offers participants a structured process, with feedback from peers and mentors, for crafting and extending their own distinct presidential perspective on community college student success. Culminating in a presentation to peers and mentors at the conclusion of the Fellowship, the capstone project leads participants through rigorous analysis of data and inquiry into the student experience, the development and refinement of a vision for community college excellence, and the advancement of their ability to communicate and build urgency around a vision for transformational change.

**Mentorship** by an exceptional, nationally recognized current or former community college president who engages participants in a dynamic exchange of ideas and helps to draw connections across the seminars, capstone project, and participants' own professional experiences. Through both formal and informal mechanisms, mentors offer support and guidance to fellows throughout the year, including through a series of interactive webinars on topics related to leading change to improve student success.

### FELLOWS VS. SITTING COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENTS



\* [https://www.aacc.nche.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/CEOSurvey\\_05012016.pdf](https://www.aacc.nche.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/CEOSurvey_05012016.pdf)

**THROUGHOUT THE PROGRAM, FELLOWS WILL EXPLORE THREE BROAD THEMES:**

**1 LEADING FOR STUDENT SUCCESS**

Defining and assessing student success in multiple domains: learning, completion, transfer and bachelor's attainment, labor market, and equity in access and outcomes.

**2 LEADING INTERNAL TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE**

Transforming institutional culture and core practices to deeply and sustainably improve student success.

**3 PARTNERING FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION**

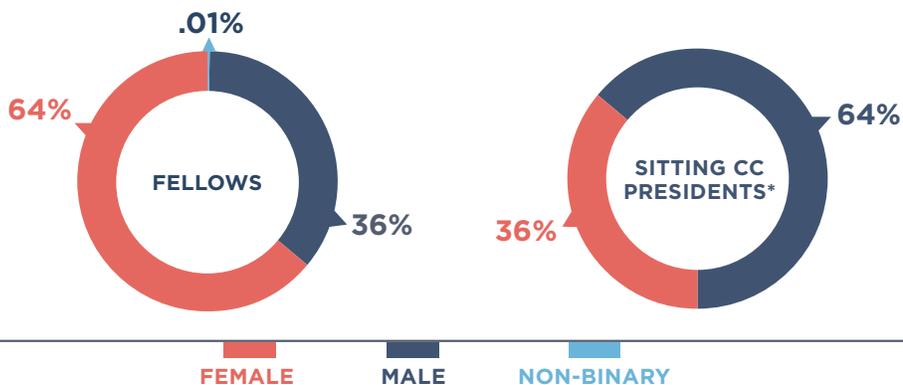
Implementing new structures with external partners—including K-12 schools, universities, community-based organizations, and employers—to improve student success.

Applicants should aspire to enter a presidency within five years of completing the fellowship\*. Ideal candidates are motivated by the potential of community colleges to impact the lives of students and to grow the health and vitality of communities. Aspen Fellows aspire to be transformational community college presidents—those who will lead their institutions to achieve significant improvements in student outcomes and greater equity in educational access and success. They are willing to take risks to lead transformational change and are strategic, reform-minded thinkers and innovators.

The Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship is committed to identifying and developing talented leaders who reflect the diversity of the communities and students that the nations' community colleges serve. We strongly encourage applicants from diverse backgrounds and from all groups representative of varying race and ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, nationality, culture, religion, and physical abilities. We also encourage applicants from a variety of professional backgrounds, including:

- Campus presidents, provosts, or vice presidents at a community college
- Senior administrators in other higher education institutions or K-12 systems
- Executives from outside of education with deep commitment to ensuring students' success

**FELLOWS VS. SITTING COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENTS**



\* Applicants who have been sitting presidents for five years or less may apply for the Aspen New Presidents Fellowship.

< **NOTE:** THE 2015 AACC CEO SURVEY DID NOT INCLUDE DATA ON NON-BINARY GENDER IDENTITY

# FELLOWSHIP INFORMATION

## PROGRAM DATES

Residential seminars of four days each will be held in late July 2020, mid-November 2020, and early April 2021. Exact dates are yet to be determined.

## FELLOWSHIP FEES

The cost of the Fellowship is \$5,000, which includes lodging and onsite meals during each seminar. Fellows will be responsible for paying for and arranging their own travel to/from seminars. Need-based financial aid is available to offset the Fellowship fee and travel costs; applications are available after selection.

## HOW TO APPLY OR NOMINATE A FELLOWSHIP CANDIDATE

Online applications will be available September 16, 2019, and require short essays, an updated resume, and a letter of support from your institution's president.

Aspen strongly encourages nominations of exceptional leaders who are well positioned to benefit from the Fellowship. Nominated candidates will be contacted directly and encouraged to apply.

To apply or nominate a candidate, please visit our website:  
**[higher.aspeninstitute.org/risingpresidents](http://higher.aspeninstitute.org/risingpresidents)**.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 31, 2019**

To learn more, visit **[higher.aspeninstitute.org](http://higher.aspeninstitute.org)** or contact us at **[risingpresidents@aspeninstitute.org](mailto:risingpresidents@aspeninstitute.org)**.



The Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship is made possible by the generous support of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, College Futures Foundation, Greater Texas Foundation, Joyce Foundation, JPMorgan Chase & Co., and The Kresge Foundation.

“Aspen gave me a deep and lasting connection to a group of leaders who are fiercely committed to equity, believe our students can achieve remarkable outcomes, and believe community colleges represent tremendous opportunity and import for this country. Every day I approach my work with the Aspen teachings embedded in my thinking and my practice.”

—Meghan Hughes, president, Community College of Rhode Island