

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**
aspen institute

Stanford
Educational Leadership
Initiative

THE ASPEN RISING PRESIDENTS FELLOWSHIP

FEATURES OF THE FELLOWSHIP

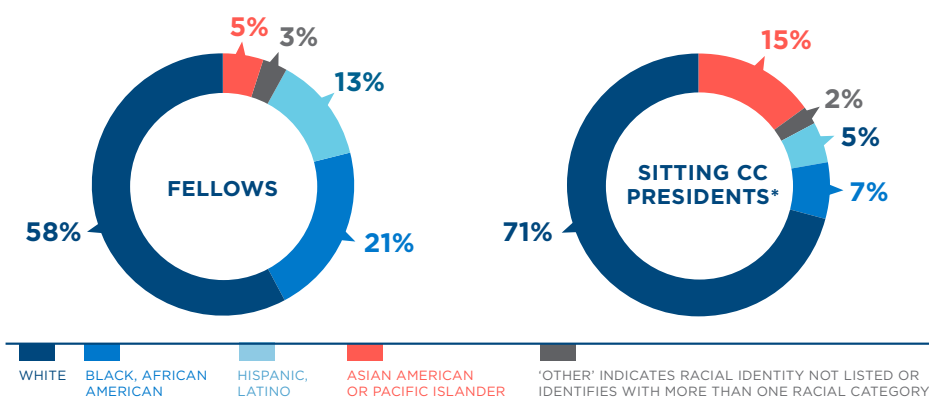
The Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship provides a perspective and skillset that equips fellows to become innovative and highly effective leaders of community colleges that achieve exceptional results for students and communities. Fellows will:

- Work with national leaders who are shaping and implementing at scale best practices for community college success.
- Become part of a network of forward-thinking peers who support and challenge one another in the pursuit of change.
- Apply grounded and innovative strategies to meet student success challenges in their colleges.
- Be recognized and promoted as highly promising candidates for future presidencies.
- **A capstone** 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 at the conclusion of the fellowship, the capstone leads participants through rigorous analysis of data and inquiry into the student experience, the development and refinement of a vision for 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 projects, and participants' own professional experiences. Mentors offer support and guidance to fellows throughout the year through both formal and informal mechanisms, including a series of interactive webinars on topics related to leading change to improve student success.

The fellowship includes:

- **Three 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 sessions includes presentations of groundbreaking research, extensive time working in small groups with peers and mentors, and the opportunity to learn from veteran college leaders.

RISING PRESIDENTS FELLOWS VS. SITTING COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENTS



* https://www.aacc.nche.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/CEOSurvey_05012016.pdf

THROUGHOUT THE PROGRAM, FELLOWS WILL EXPLORE THREE BROAD THEMES:

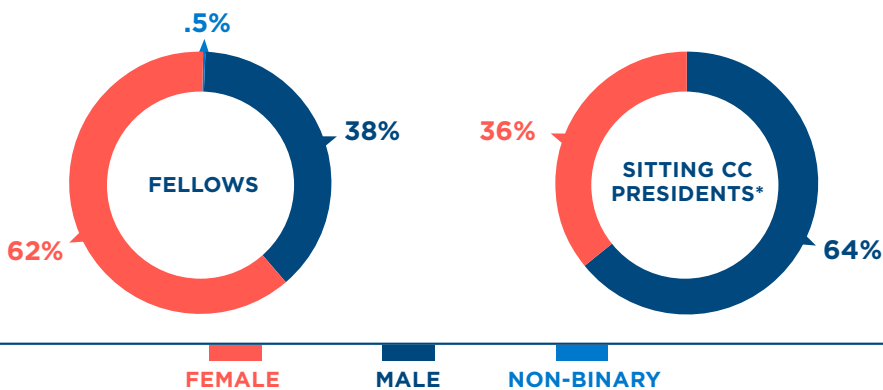
1 LEADING FOR STUDENT SUCCESS	2 LEADING INTERNAL TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE	3 PARTNERING FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION
Defining and assessing student success in multiple domains: learning, completion, transfer and bachelor's attainment, workforce, and equity in access and outcomes.	Transforming institutional culture and core practices to deeply and sustainably improve student success.	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, equity-minded, 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 community colleges serve. We strongly encourage applicants from all races, ethnicities, gender identities, sexual orientations, nationalities, religions 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

RIISING PRESIDENTS 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

Seminars will be held in mid-November 2021, early April 2022, and late July 2022. Exact dates are yet to be determined.

FELLOWSHIP FEES

The cost of the fellowship is \$5,000, which includes lodging and meals for onsite sessions. Fellows will be responsible for paying for and arranging their own travel to and 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 **February 1, 2021**. They 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.ed.aspeninstitute.org/risingpresidents.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 1, 2021

“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

To learn more, visit higher.ed.aspeninstitute.org or contact us at risingpresidents@aspeninstitute.org.



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