

# THE ASPEN RISING PRESIDENTS FELLOWSHIP



Nearly 80% of community college presidents expect to retire in the next decade, leaving in their wake a dramatic need for highly qualified new leaders.

**The Rising Presidents Fellowship responds directly to this need.**



“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

The Rising Presidents Fellowship aims to develop community college leaders with the vision and strategic capacity to transform community colleges, achieving higher level of student success and equity 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.

## ASPEN PRESIDENTIAL FELLOWSHIP

 THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

**Applications  
for the next cohort  
open now through  
December 16, 2022**

[as.pn/risingpresidents](https://as.pn/risingpresidents)

# THE ASPEN RISING PRESIDENTS 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 equitable and exceptional results for students and communities.

## Fellows:

- 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.
- Are recognized and promoted as highly promising candidates for future presidencies.

## 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.
- 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.

## THROUGHOUT THE PROGRAM, FELLOWS EXPLORE THREE BROAD THEMES:

1

### LEADING FOR STUDENT SUCCESS & EQUITY

Defining and assessing student success in multiple domains: learning, completion, transfer and bachelor's attainment, workforce, 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 IMPACT

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

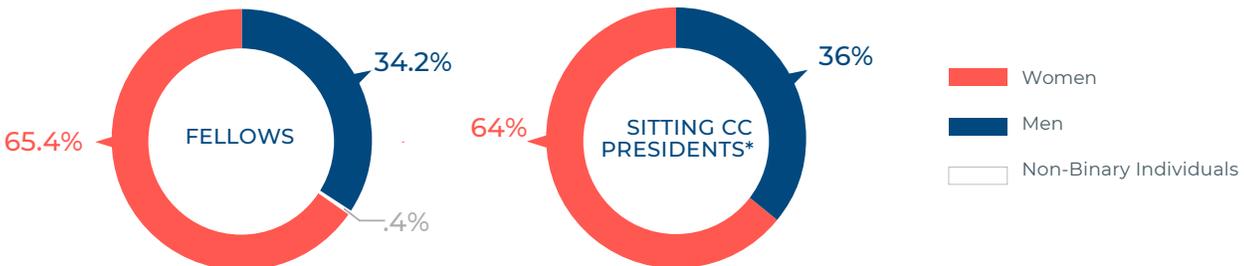
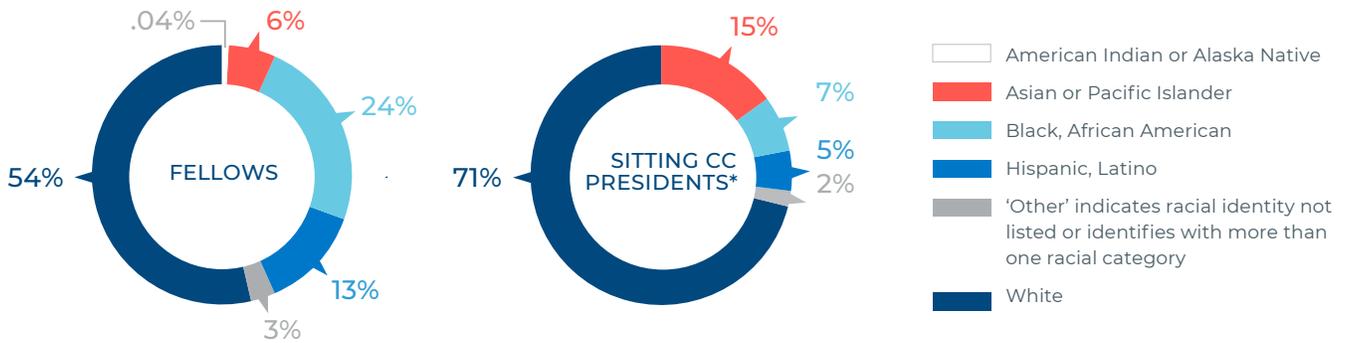
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**APPLICANTS** should aspire to enter a presidency within five years of completing the fellowship. Ideal candidates are motivated by the potential of community colleges to improve the lives of students and to grow the health and vitality of communities. Aspen fellows aspire to be transformational community college presidents—presidents 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-oriented thinkers and innovators.

**APPLICANT DIVERSITY** 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 ability statuses. We also encourage applicants from a variety of professional backgrounds, including:

- Cabinet-level administrators, 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

## RISING PRESIDENTS 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)

Note: The 2015 AACC CEO Survey did not include data on non-binary gender identity.