Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence

Launched in 2010, the $1 million Aspen Prize recognizes community college excellence, defined as those institutions that achieve high and improving levels of student success in the areas of learning, degree and credential attainment, employment and earnings outcomes, and access and success for minority and low-income students. In three rounds of the competition, comparable data are gathered from public sources and directly from institutions.

LEADERSHIP: Vice President and Executive Director, College Excellence Program: Josh Wyner

LEVEL OF INFORMATION

- Level of commitment to initiative:
- Level of data submitted to initiative:
- Level of data reported publicly:

PARTICIPATION

- Public 4-year
- Public 2-year
- Private nonprofit 4-year
- Private nonprofit 2-year
- For-profit 4-year
- For-profit 2-year

NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS BY STATE

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

- Data collection
- Data tools
- Convenings
- Best practices
- Technical assistance
- Federal policy recommendations
- State policy recommendations
- Institutional policy recommendations

KEY RESOURCES

Aspen Prize Selection Process
http://www.aspeninstitute.org/policy-work/college-excellence/selection-criteria

FACT SHEET January 2015

**These figures reflect the institutions that are eligible to receive the 2015 Aspen Prize. The number of students covered is the total unduplicated headcount for participating institutions, or those institutions selected to participate in Round 2 of the competition. The number of states and students varies from year to year.
**Data Measures in the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence**

This is a summary of the measures included in the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence’s data collection (indicated by a check mark). Text after a measure gives more specific information about the level of detail collected.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACCESS</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✔️ Enrollment</td>
<td>✔️ Grant aid: Pell</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRESS</th>
<th>COMPLETION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✔️ Persistence: First-year only</td>
<td>✔️ Graduation rates: 150%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✔️ Remedial course completion</td>
<td>✔️ Time to degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✔️ Gateway course completion</td>
<td>✔️ Credits to degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✔️ Other course completion</td>
<td>✔️ Credentials conferred</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OUTCOMES</th>
<th>OTHER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✔️ Employment rate: After 1 year, after 5 years</td>
<td>✔️ Academic and student support services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✔️ Earnings: After 1 year, after 5 years</td>
<td>✔️ Student experience, engagement, satisfaction, and/or behavior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✔️ Repayment measures</td>
<td>✔️ Faculty demographics, course loads, and/or student ratios</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✔️ Learning outcomes: Institutional assessment</td>
<td>✔️ Course information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✔️ Continuing education outcomes: Certification/licensure</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Student Characteristics

This list denotes which student characteristics this initiative uses to disaggregate the data measures listed above, although not all measures are necessarily disaggregated by all characteristics noted here.

- ✔️ Enrollment status: First-time
- ✔️ Attendance pattern: Full-time, part-time
- ✔️ Degree/certificate-seeking status
- ✔️ Income
- ✔️ Race/Ethnicity
- ✔️ Gender
- ✔️ Age
- ✔️ Program of study
- ✔️ Military status
- ✔️ Level of academic preparation: Remedial placement/enrollment

### Notes

This summary reflects data collected for Rounds 1 and 2 of the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence.