

BUILDING A NEW SYSTEM OF HIGHER LEARNING



**higher
learning**
ADVOCATES

Higher Learning Advocates is a non-profit advocacy organization working to shift federal policy from higher education to higher learning—education and training beyond high school that leads to a degree, credential, or employment. While more students are participating in higher education than ever before, there is a vast and growing disconnect between federal policy and the needs of today's students, employers, and communities. We are working toward federal policies that create transparent pathways to success, incentivize innovation, protect students and taxpayers, and improve outcomes.



HIGH-QUALITY OUTCOMES

High-quality outcomes are paramount, but current approaches are inadequate.

The nation needs to move to a postsecondary quality assurance system based on high-quality learning and focused on students and outcomes. Federal policy must raise the bar for quality, promote innovation and shift from inputs to outcomes.



TODAY'S STUDENTS

Today's students are different than those for whom federal policy is designed.

Americans need a system that works for today's students—a system where educational providers and employers are connected, programs are flexible and support student success, and where all postsecondary learning is recognized.



AFFORDABILITY & RESPONSIVENESS

The higher education landscape is undergoing significant changes: policy needs to catch up.

Our global marketplace now requires continued postsecondary education and training. We need a system of higher learning where finances don't preclude access, new credentials are vetted and recognized, and financial aid adapts to fit today's students.

TODAY'S STUDENTS are more diverse than prior generations—in terms of age, race, and income. They're more mobile and consistently online. They're parents, working adults and veterans. Yet, most federal higher education policies were designed to meet the needs of the students and employers of the 1970s. As a result, our current system serves an ever-shrinking share of learners.

38%

OLDER THAN 25



13%

LIVE ON CAMPUS



58%

WORK WHILE
IN COLLEGE



40%

PART-TIME



26%

PARENTING



57%

ATTEND



47%

FINANCIALLY
INDEPENDENT



42%

AT OR BELOW

FEDERAL
POVERTY
LINE

**STUDENT ENROLLMENT
INCREASES 1996-2010:**

↑ 11% WHITE

↑ 240% HISPANIC

↑ 72% BLACK

OUR APPROACH

Higher Learning Advocates is working across the political aisle and with a broad array of stakeholder groups to advocate for policies that address the postsecondary needs of all of today's students.



POLICY & ADVOCACY

We conduct rigorous policy analysis, provide expert testimony, and work to educate policymakers on key issues.



COALITIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

We lead and build new coalitions on key issues and participate in partner networks to work toward shared goals.



NEW VOICES

Working with leaders, reformers and today's students, we bring new voices to the debate over higher education policy—highlighting stories of innovation and student success.



OUTREACH

Through media and public engagement, we work to build support for reforming the nation's postsecondary education policies and elevate new perspective on the day's most important issues.