



*Association  
of American  
Colleges and  
Universities*

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March 8, 2016

Dr. Michael Zimmerman  
Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost  
The Evergreen State College  
2700 Evergreen Parkway NW  
Library 3805  
Olympia, WA 98505-0005

Dear Michael,

We are pleased to advise you that we will convene an AAC&U LEAP States Summit in September 2016.

### **Purpose**

This convening will focus on the theme of braiding together quality, equity, and student success in undergraduate education and will engage participants in efforts underway to advance large-scale, systemic reform grounded in the pillars of LEAP: essential learning outcomes; high-impact practices; authentic assessment; and inclusive excellence.

The 2016 LEAP States Summit will include conversations focused on

- How to build more powerful campus and cross-institutional environments for making excellence inclusive;
- How to leverage LEAP work in different settings and identify catalysts for achieving broader and deeper engagement across campuses, consortia, and systems;
- How to use data for advocacy and strategize for sustainability for LEAP states' efforts.

### **Who Should Attend**

You have been identified by AAC&U leaders as the appropriate liaison who might coordinate on behalf of WaCLA to send a team to the 2016 LEAP States Summit. If you would prefer to designate a different liaison, please let us know, and we will send this invitation to that person.

We are inviting each state to bring a team of five (5) individuals to the Summit. We recommend that your team be composed of key educational leaders in your LEAP work, presumably from multiple institutions. We are happy to discuss with you the potential composition of your team.

### **Location and Logistics**

We currently are making arrangements for a conference hotel in Indianapolis to host the 2016 LEAP States Summit. More information about the location will be provided as soon as we have a signed contract.

The Summit will begin on Tuesday, September 13, at 4:00pm and conclude by noon on Thursday, September 15.

The cost of hotel rooms and tax for the nights of Tuesday, September 13 and Wednesday, September 14 will be covered by AAC&U for the team members from our official LEAP

States. Your travel expenses, ground transportation, and incidentals will not be covered. (Please note: if you wish to bring a team larger than 5, you may bring up to 3 additional individuals; the hotel rooms for those individuals will not be covered by AAC&U.)

Please do note that the meeting will include coffee breaks; a heavy hors d'oeuvres reception on Tuesday evening; breakfast and lunch on Wednesday; and breakfast on Thursday. Dinners on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings will be "on your own."

There is no registration fee for the LEAP States Summit.

### **Our "Contract" With You**

In order to make the most of the 2016 LEAP States Summit, we ask you to consider this invitation as the entry point into a process, rather than merely a "save the date". If you agree to bring a team to the Summit, we will then ask you to join with us in a planning process leading up to the Summit. We likely will ask the liaisons (now "team leaders") to provide feedback on specific topics that the Summit will address and to coordinate their teams around one (or more) planning exercises to assist us—and your team—in preparing for the program.

AAC&U pledges, in turn, to dedicate our best coordination and planning efforts to the organization of the LEAP States Summit, to bring in key guests and leaders to augment the AAC&U team of experts, and to work as collaboratively with you as possible to make this a useful and rich convening.

### **Key Dates**

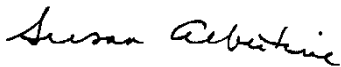
We ask that you respond to Bethany Zecher Sutton ([sutton@aacu.org](mailto:sutton@aacu.org)) by **Friday, April 8**, regarding your intention to have WaCLA send a team to the 2016 LEAP States Summit.

Our collaborative planning with you will take place in May and June. We plan to have a deadline in late June or July for confirming with AAC&U the members of your team for the Summit. (An online form will be provided for you to submit the information for your team.)

### **Our Thanks**

We extend our deep thanks for the work that you are doing to advance quality, equity, and student success. We are delighted to have the opportunity to provide another LEAP States Summit through which you can network, learn from other LEAP State leaders, and advance your work – and through which we can learn from you. Your collective efforts are an extraordinarily valuable resource to the entire AAC&U membership.

Sincerely,



Susan Albertine  
Senior Scholar and Director, LEAP States Initiative



Bethany Zecher Sutton  
Chief of Staff and Coordinating Director, LEAP