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**NASPA**<sup>TM</sup>

Student Affairs Administrators  
in Higher Education

## News Release

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*Contact:* Kristal Griffith

*Email:* [kgriffith@naspa.org](mailto:kgriffith@naspa.org)

*Phone:* (202) 265-7500 ext. 1177

### **Grant awarded to develop and pilot comprehensive transcript model**

*NASPA and AACRAO receive \$1.27M grant from Lumina Foundation*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Competency-based education and direct assessment have attracted a great deal of interest recently among educators and policy-makers. But, there are many operational and student record considerations that must be addressed when contemplating new approaches to documenting and validating student learning.

Lumina Foundation has awarded NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education and the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) a grant to develop and pilot a comprehensive student record model. The goal of the comprehensive student record is to collect, document, and distribute student learning outcomes and competencies that not only include learning from academic courses, but also includes a broad range of student experiences, including co-curricular activities and other educational experiences. This work will also allow institutions to develop approaches that better serve diverse students who acquire learning from multiple sources.

“We know students learn key skills that employers need, like critical thinking, time management and good communication, through a variety of educational experiences,” says NASPA President Kevin Kruger. “Those learning outcomes don’t always happen in the classroom and need to be documented as well.”

AACRAO and NASPA will identify eight higher education institutions to pilot the new transcript model. The Degree Qualifications Profile will be tested as a framework to organize student competencies on the transcript in a way that better communicates what students know and are able to do.

“Today’s transcripts provide little information about what students know and are able to do. Students need to be able to communicate with employers the breadth of their learning and what their credentials mean,” said Jamie Merisotis, president and CEO of Lumina Foundation. “We are pleased that AACRAO and NASPA will bring together registrars and higher education professionals and use the Degree Qualifications Profile to develop meaningful ways to convey the learning that degrees represent.”

“Technology has greatly expanded our ability to transmit information. We can now explore the best ways to communicate student achievement and learning to employers, graduate schools and students themselves,” says Dr. Tom Green, AACRAO’s associate executive director, “it is an exciting time to be exploring what the student record can become and how it can position students of all ages and backgrounds to present their higher education experiences to the world around them.”

The project will conclude in December 2016 with the institutions selected issuing comprehensive transcripts for students. ACCRAO and NASPA will formalize lessons learned and provide guidance to the field on how to operationalize and issue comprehensive student records.

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*NASPA is the leading association for the advancement, health, and sustainability of the student affairs profession. Our work provides high-quality professional development, advocacy, and research for 15,000 members in all 50 states, 25 countries, and 8 U.S. territories.*

*AACRAO serves over 11,000 higher education professionals at over 2600 institutions in 42 countries. We establish and maintain professional standards and practices for the work of the Registrar and Admissions Officers. AACRAO is the worldwide home to Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) practice and the leading content provider of SEM information for higher education professionals.*

*Lumina Foundation is an independent, private foundation committed to increasing the proportion of Americans with high-quality degrees, certificates and other credentials to 60 percent by 2025. Lumina’s outcomes-based approach focuses on helping to design and build an accessible, responsive and accountable higher education system while fostering a national sense of urgency for action to achieve Goal 2025. For more information, logon to [www.luminafoundation.org](http://www.luminafoundation.org).*