

News Release

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NASPA[™]

Student Affairs Administrators
in Higher Education

NASPA expands national initiative on civic learning and democratic engagement

The third year of Lead Initiative increases network to nearly 100 institutions

WASHINGTON, D.C. — NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education announced the members of the Lead Initiative on Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement (Lead Initiative), which recognizes and supports a network of nearly 100 colleges and universities with strong commitments to civic learning and democratic engagement. The Lead Initiative, which is in its third year, expanded from 73 to 92 colleges and universities. A list of all the participating institutions can be found on the [Lead Initiative web page](#).

“NASPA has long been committed to ensuring that a college education includes developing students as leaders and as citizens through a commitment to civic engagement,” says NASPA President Kevin Kruger. “Through the Lead Initiative, NASPA is shining light on the unique contributions that student affairs professionals are making to democratic engagement. In a time of concern about our civic society, it is critical that college administrators are doing all that they can to present students with opportunities to help them develop as productive and engaged citizens.”

Selected institutions, representing public and private four-year and two-year colleges and universities, have committed to a series of strategies to make civic learning and democratic engagement an integrated and core component of the division of student affairs through planning, partnerships and assessment. The goals of the program are to:

- Build clear and tangible civic learning and democratic engagement activities into student affairs division strategic goals and learning outcomes.
- Create strategies in collaboration with students, faculty, and community partners that increase civic learning and help solve community problems through collective action.
- Collect and report data on the efficacy of campus efforts using tools that measure gains in civic learning and democratic engagement.

“Through the Lead Initiative, NASPA provides support to the critical work done by student affairs professionals daily in educating students for lives of citizenship,” Kruger says. “This initiative brings together a strong and purposeful network of NASPA member institutions committed to making civic learning and democratic engagement a part of every student’s college education.”

To learn more about NASPA's Lead Initiative and view a complete listing of participating institutions, please visit the NASPA website at: <http://www.naspa.org/rpi/lead-initiative>.

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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 13,000 members in all 50 states, 25 countries, and 8 U.S. territories.