

## News Release

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### NASPA launches fourth year of the Lead Initiative

*74 colleges and universities are committed to advancing best practices of civic learning and democratic engagement as part of every student's college education*

WASHINGTON, D.C. —NASPA-Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education announces the members of the National Initiative on Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement (Lead Initiative), which recognizes and supports a network of 74 colleges and universities with strong commitments to civic learning and democratic engagement.

“The NASPA Lead Initiative highlights institutions that embed leadership and democratic engagement within the civic mission of higher education,” says NASPA President Kevin Kruger. “These 74 institutions provide opportunities to their students during which they develop commitment to becoming active and engaged citizens in their community and beyond. We are pleased to announce the 2015 cohort of Lead Initiative Institutions.”

Selected institutions, representing public and private four-year and two-year colleges and universities, have committed to a set of strategies to work in partnership with on- and off-campus constituents to influence students' ongoing commitment to civic learning and democratic engagement, including:

- building clear and tangible civic learning and democratic engagement activities into student affairs division strategic goals and learning outcomes;
- collecting and reporting data on the efficacy of campus efforts using tools that measure gains in civic learning and democratic engagement; and
- creating strategies in collaboration with students that increase civic learning and help solve community problems through collective action.

“The Lead Initiative provides a strategic framework for student affairs professionals to best educate students, campus stakeholders, and community partners about the critical work of civic learning and democratic engagement (CLDE),” shares Stephanie Gordon, NASPA Vice President for Professional Development. “This initiative provides a space for NASPA member institutions to explore promising practices, assessment of student learning, and program development to ensure that CLDE work is part of every student's college experience.” To learn more about NASPA's Lead Initiative and see a complete listing of the 74 participating institutions please visit the [NASPA website](#).

*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.*