



# Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania

- Access/affordability at independent, nonprofit schools
- Economic Impact
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# Access/affordability at independent, nonprofit schools

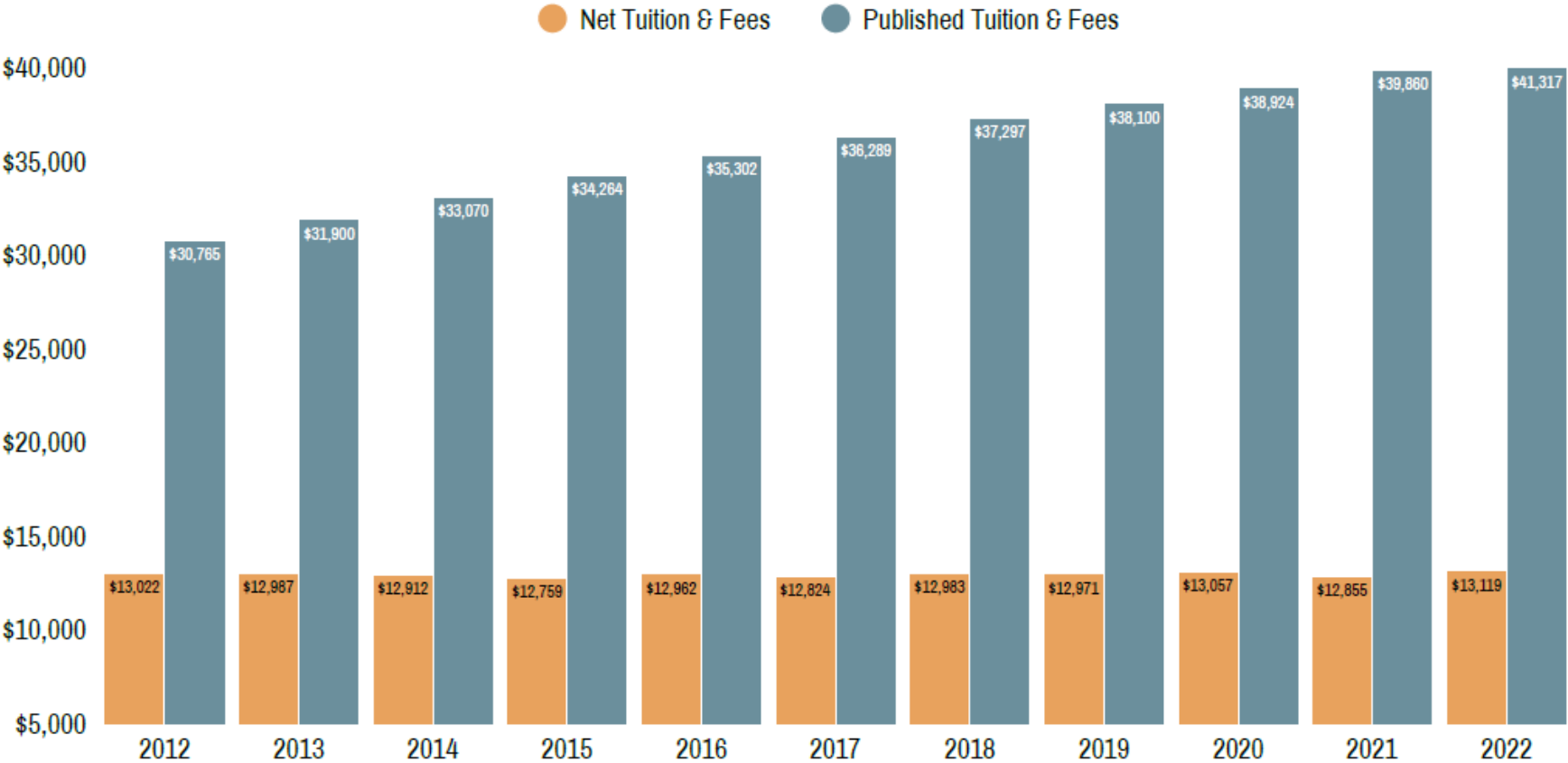
- ✓ 53% of all four-year degree-seeking students in PA
- ✓ 45% of all post-secondary students (including 2-year and community colleges)
- ✓ 52% of all working-age “adult” students seeking bachelor’s degrees
- ✓ 46% of all lower income PHEAA students in PA
- ✓ 54% of all underrepresented minority college students.

They do all this while maintaining average net tuition/fees rates of about **\$13,000** —that's what families who get financial aid actually pay—rates that are

- ✓ virtually **unchanged** (in non-inflation adjusted dollars) over the last ten years
- ✓ 25% less than **national averages** for independent nonprofit schools
- ✓ Very competitive with the average tuition and fees at the state funded institutions -- while receiving none of the billions in direct PA budget line items that go to those institutions.

- ✓ 47% of all undergraduate Pell students at 4-year institutions in the state are enrolled at an AICUP college or university.
- ✓ 39 AICUP institutions have enrollments that consist of at least 30% Pell students.
- ✓ 19 AICUP institutions have enrollments that consist of at least 40% Pell students.
- ✓ 6 AICUP institutions have enrollments that consist of at least 50% Pell students.
- ✓ 6 of the 10 higher education institutions in Pennsylvania with enrollments consisting of 50% or more Pell students are AICUP colleges or universities.

Net tuition for 90% of students who receive financial aid is approximately \$13K – virtually unchanged from 10 years ago. In the 10-year period 2012-13 to 2022-23, average undergraduate tuition/fees (NOT INFLATION ADJUSTED) over all AICUP schools for students receiving financial aid increased less than 1%.



# Economic Impact

**1** out of **33** or **195,120** jobs in the Commonwealth created or supported by an AICUP school

**\$1.5B** generated in state and local tax revenue

**\$5.3B** impact of student spending on local communities

**\$29B** Annual Economic Impact

**\$139 to \$1** return on investment of state dollars

students attend annually **278,000+**

# Community Impact

At an average age of 140 years, these 80+ schools support 58 different local economies with

- ✓ \$5.3B in local spending by students and families
- ✓ \$1.5B in state, local and property **taxes**
- ✓ millions of volunteer hours at events in communities in which they have been embedded for an average 140 years.

# Workforce Impact

# NURSING

43

69

77

# TEACHERS

60

45

**STEM**

72

58

# **BUSINESS**

72

45

A.I., accounting, finance, management,  
marketing, etc.

# Partnerships

# External partnerships

**Non-degree Credentials:** We have hundreds (maybe thousands) of non-degree credential opportunities within the AICUP schools – most are industry-approved certifications in everything from business to technical certifications; AICUP encourages these collaborations through a formal partnership with an entity called RIZE, based out of Michigan, founded by a private college Prez and two Harvard Business school grads.

**Dual Enrollment:** According to the most recent IPEDS data (2023-2024), 64 AICUP schools offer dual enrollment. AICUP schools enrolled 20,408 students from Pennsylvania high schools in dual enrollment courses, double the State-Related/SSHE combined and 2<sup>nd</sup> to CCs (2,500 more).

**Articulation Agreements:** Several hundred as I write; we had 8 in place (with 8 different community colleges) at the college I headed; these are agreements that specify what courses will count towards a major at the four-year institution, outline shortcut admissions pathways and often include automatic financial and other incentives upon matriculation.

# Internal partnerships

✓ 38 AICUP shared services programs (33:1 ROI)

✓ ***We buy together:***

- energy
- healthcare
- bulk products
- AI
- software
- cybersecurity
- Title IX training
- and much more

✓ ***We invest together:***

- MEP
- insurance

# Rankings

- ✓ PA #2 in the country at **importing** out of state students to PA schools (34 years of data)
- ✓ PA #2 in the country with the most “**Best Colleges for Your Tuition (and Tax) Dollars**” according to the **Washington Monthly**.
- ✓ PA #3 in the country on **WSJ list of 500 best** universities in America
- ✓ PA #4 in the country in NIH federal **research** dollars. (16% American Nobel Prize winners)

- ✓ **AICUP members are 94% of the colleges in Pennsylvania offering “free tuition” programs (16 of 17 colleges), according to the Washington Post.**
- ✓ **The Third Way Economic Mobility Index ranked AICUP members as 20 of the top 25 colleges in Pennsylvania for **economic mobility** and **success after graduation**.**
- ✓ **PA #4 in the country with the most “Colleges Where Low-Income Students Get the Highest ROI,” according to Georgetown University’s Center on Education and the Workforce report.**

- ✓ PA #8 in the country in **total** financial aid to low-income students
- ✓ PA #11 in the country in **per capita** aid to low-income students
- ✓ Higher education is the 5th largest industry in Pennsylvania according to the **PA Chamber** of Business and Industry, and the AICUP independent nonprofit schools represent half of that sector.

## AICUP schools

- ✓ generate \$1 in every \$35 in the PA economy
- ✓ support 1 in every 33 jobs in the PA economy
- ✓ return \$139 for every \$1 invested by PA state government through PHEAA grants to its students (the highest return by far of any higher ed sector).

Invest in the  
Bookends of  
Education  
-Pittsburgh  
Post-Gazette

# Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

## Invest in the Bookends of Education



BY TOM FOLEY

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preschool levels the learning field for all students. Business leaders and law-enforcement authorities understand what more than 100 studies and the National Academy of Sciences tell us — quality preschool is a good investment with an eight-fold return in reduced educational, human-service and criminal-justice costs.

Prekindergarten education correlates to higher primary-grade test scores, quicker grade advancement, more college education and increased lifetime income — and, according to reports from district attorneys and police chiefs from across the country, reduced crime. They've found preschool students 29 percent more likely to graduate high school, 50 percent less likely to become a teen parent and 70

OP-ED

## Think beyond concrete, toward care

By Thomas P. Foley and Stephanie Nycum Doliveira



President Joe Biden (right) joins Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and fellow Democrats at the U.S. Capitol to discuss the latest progress on his infrastructure agenda. AP

In the depths of the Great Depression, a new word took hold in the American lexicon.

*Infrastructure* would embody an innovative approach to propelling the economy forward by hardening the ties connecting a patchwork nation.

We still rely on physical infrastructure to get people to work and goods to market, but language changes and the *infrastructure* label has flexed to accommodate the 21st century. This so-called “infrastructure week,” when Democrats (and some Republicans) in Congress are trying to push through President Joe Biden’s \$1.2 trillion infrastructure package, demonstrates how that term has evolved.

Think beyond  
concrete, toward  
care  
-The  
Philadelphia  
Enquirer

The way you start  
and finish your  
education has  
huge impact on  
future success  
-PennLive



## **The way you start and finish your education has a huge impact on future success: Thomas P. Foley**

- Updated: Sep. 13, 2016, 7:00 p.m.
- |Published: Sep. 13, 2016, 6:00 p.m.

**By Thomas P. Foley**

Almost 50 years ago, a Harvard University president said that "if you think education is expensive, try ignorance."

Most of us would agree. "Hitting [the books](#)" is important and education has intrinsic value.

It is hard to find anything else about education where public opinion is either uniform or unanimous.

The legion of laments seems limitless--Google "education problems" and more than 86 million articles appear in under a second.

# Brains and bytes vs bombs and bullets

4 SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026 THE SUNDAY PATRIOT-NEWS

## OPINION

AS I SEE IT

### Pennsylvania's colleges are a secret weapon for national defense

*From educating 6,000 G.I. Bill students annually to developing cybersecurity programs, the state's colleges serve as critical infrastructure for military readiness and veteran success.*

**Tom Foley**

It may surprise you to learn that capital-area colleges play a pivotal role in educating military veterans and supporting national defense.

These include schools like Harrisburg University, Dickinson College, Messiah University, Elizabethtown College, Lebanon Valley College, York College of Pennsylvania and Susquehanna University.

When we think of national security, most people probably picture the Pentagon before Pennsylvania. But Pennsylvania plays a pivotal role in supporting American defense. An estimated 115,000 Pennsylvanians work in defense-related jobs. It's here where you'll find two of the Army's largest ammunition factories, the National Guard's busiest training center, the nation's largest defense distribution facility, the Army's graduate college and over 90 military installations.

American nuclear submarines couldn't be built without the nearly 600 vital industrial suppliers here in Pennsylvania. And the top seven defense contractors in the United States have offices in Pennsylvania. It's no wonder why the secretary of the Navy gave a shoutout to Pennsylvania when dedicating the USS Harrisburg, stating, "The people of central Pennsylvania have always played a critical role in forging the strength of our Navy and fighting to defend our nation."



Schools across central Pennsylvania, including Elizabethtown College in Lancaster County, play a pivotal role in educating military veterans and supporting national defense. *Provided*

**Thank you!**