

## **ACE Board Statement on *Committing to Quality***

The American Council on Education has a longstanding record of commitment to assuring the quality of America's colleges and universities and the quality of the educations they provide. It has been expressed repeatedly in resolutions by the Board of Directors.

ACE has been asked to endorse the *Guidelines for Assessment and Accountability in Higher Education* as presented by the New Leadership Alliance for Student Learning and Accountability. The Guidelines provide four principles that ACE supports:

1. **Set Ambitious Goals**  
Each college and university is encouraged to articulate its specific goals for student learning and prominently announce these goals to various stakeholders and the public.
2. **Gather Evidence of Student Learning**  
Each college and University is encouraged to develop systematic processes for gathering evidence to discover how well students are progressing toward the institution's overall and programmatic learning outcomes.
3. **Use Evidence to Improve Student Learning**  
Each college and university is encouraged to use the evidence gathered to ensure and improve quality in student learning, promoting continuous review and evaluation of institutional action and improvement.
4. **Report Evidence and Results**  
Each college and university is encouraged to report to both internal and external constituents the evidence and results of student learning, thereby strengthening the institution's commitment to improving programs and services that contribute to a high level of student accomplishment.

Thirty-seven organizations and associations have endorsed the *Guidelines for Assessment and Accountability in Higher Education*. ACE's endorsement is consistent with both the recommendations of the ACE Task Force on Accreditation and the ongoing work of the Commission on Higher Education Attainment.