

Executive Summary

The Powered by Publics (PxP) initiative has been an ambitious undertaking from the beginning, aiming to produce hundreds of thousands more undergraduate degrees and halving equity gaps for low-income, minoritized, and first-generation students by 2025. APLU has collected student performance data from the 127 participating institutions over the past three years – in 2020, 2021, and 2022 – to evaluate progress toward these stretch goals. The purpose of this report is to document the network's progress and share examples of innovation emerging from cross-campus collaborations.

Key findings in this report include:

- **Six-year graduation outcomes hold steady, while equity gaps for some racial/ethnic minority groups and Pell recipients improved.** PxP institutions have begun to make promising progress toward closing equity gaps in six-year graduation outcomes for low-income and minoritized students. It will take several years, however, to see the impact of the PxP initiative (expected to be positive) as well as the pandemic (expected to be negative), as the cohorts whose performance is measured in this report began their educational journey well before both events occurred.
- **PxP universities awarded more degrees to Pell recipients, Hispanic students, and Black students, but slightly fewer degrees overall.** It is encouraging to see that more degrees are being awarded to students from these populations. While the total number of degrees is lower than hoped for, the COVID-19 pandemic is likely a contributing factor. Universities will need several years to recover from this debilitating event and regain lost ground.
- **Enrollments declined overall during the pandemic but increased for Hispanic students.** Although it is not a surprise to see that enrollments have dropped during this period, it is a sign of concern, as the number of degrees awarded is partly a function of enrollment. If enrollment continues to decline, we may expect to see fewer degrees awarded in the coming years, unless graduation rates increase.
- **Retention decreased and equity gaps widened in the first year of the pandemic.** Retention is an important leading indicator of persistence and completion. The findings suggest that changes necessitated by the pandemic, including remote learning and reduced student services, as well as broader economic, social, and health challenges, made it harder for students to stay enrolled. Groups disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, namely Black and Hispanic students, also saw the biggest drops in retention over this period.

These quantitative data provide a limited perspective into the work of the PxP network. This report details the various projects, publications, and resources created by the PxP clusters during 2022. In addition, 2022 saw the emergence of several cross-cluster collaborations, including the PxP Equity Roundtables and Data Literacy Institute, both of which added value to the network and laid the foundation for scaling successful approaches. Finally, the Intermediaries for Scale cohort of 16 institutions, which were competitively selected to receive expert capacity-building services, experienced accelerated transformation toward their campuses' strategic objectives. These outstanding collaborations are detailed in the report as well as documented on the PxP online [Learning Exchange](#) platform which launched in late 2021.