



Introducing Higher Learning Advocates, an essential voice for the public interest, supporting outcomes and growth in higher learning

Higher Learning Advocates is shifting federal policy from higher education to higher learning. We are focused on quality outcomes for today's students in an evolved postsecondary system. Today's students will guide us. It is their experiences and needs that will drive change to a status quo that serves an ever-shrinking share of learners. It is for the students, and the public, that we will advance policies, work with fellow experts and policymakers, and dramatically improve the opportunity for student success in today's America.

It is time to shift federal policy from higher *education* to higher *learning*.

Our nation's federal policies must support a more diverse, adaptable, and outcomes-focused ecosystem of post-high school learning. Our economy demands an increasingly more educated workforce, and people are gaining skills and knowledge in new and impactful ways, the nation is at a critical juncture for federal postsecondary education and training policy.

Yet, federal policy is still based on legislation designed to meet the needs of the 1970s. In 2017, there exists an urgent need to increase the number of Americans who hold high quality postsecondary credentials, including degrees. It is essential that there is a voice for the public interest in the outcomes of higher education. Higher Learning Advocates is that voice.



Quality is paramount, but current approaches are inadequate.

Current approaches to quality assurance are focused on institutions and based on time. The nation desperately needs to evolve to a quality assurance system focused on students and based on learning. Simply put, federal policy must shift from inputs to outcomes.

Americans need smart policies that support a system that is **outcomes based**. Institutions and other providers of postsecondary learning must be incentivized and held accountable for student completion, equity, and employability.



Today's students are different than those for whom federal policy is designed.

Today's students are far more diverse in terms of age, race, and income. Unlike, in years past, a minority of today's students attend residential campuses. Affordability has risen as an urgent issue impacting students, and most are working while going to school.

Americans need smart policies that support a system that **works for all of today's students**. A system where educational providers and employers are connected, programs are flexible and support student success, and that all postsecondary learning is recognized.



The higher education landscape is undergoing significant changes.

New delivery models such as competency-based and on-line education are now common. A wider range of providers are significant players in the field. American workers require education throughout their lives to advance their careers and adapt to the increasing pace of societal change. Thus, new kinds of credentials are emerging and must be recognized. Higher education is now only one piece of a more expansive post-secondary landscape.

Americans need smart policies that support a system that is **innovative and affordable**. Finances should no longer prevent anyone from accessing – and completing – a postsecondary credential, and financial assistance programs need to work better for today's students and their lives.

Higher Learning Advocates is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C. We support a system of higher learning that is student-centered, equitable, outcomes-based, and focused on educational quality by advocating for policies that: are based on student outcomes, make postsecondary education and student aid work for today's students, and ensure access and affordability. We are bipartisan, strategically minded, and focused on improving postsecondary access and success for all students.

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For additional information about Higher Learning Advocates, please visit www.higherlearningadvocates.org or email info@higherlearningadvocates.org

