

GOVERNING BOARD EQUITY IN STUDENT SUCCESS TRUSTEE ACADEMY

September 14, 2021

1:00 – 1:30 p.m. *OPENING/OVERVIEW OF THE GOVERNING BOARD EQUITY IN STUDENT SUCCESS PROJECT*

Speakers:

- Dr. Aaron Thompson, President, KY Council on Postsecondary Education
- Dr. Andrew K. Koch, President and Chief Operating & Innovation Officer, Gardner Institute
- Mr. Henry Stoeber, President and Chief Executive Officer, AGB

The John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education (Gardner Institute) has partnered with the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB) and Kentucky's Council on Postsecondary Education to develop and launch the Governing Board Equity in Student Success Project. Participants will learn about how the project will provide tools and learning experiences designed to enhance Kentucky's trustees and senior administrators' knowledge and skills and build their capacity for oversight of institutional efforts aimed at achieving equitable student success outcomes, including retention, graduation, and career opportunities.

1:35 – 2:25 p.m. *Equity in Student Success: A Board Imperative*

Speakers:

- Dr. James E. Lyons, Sr., Board Member, Alliant International University and Columbia College Hollywood and Senior Consultant, AGB
- Dr. Kevin P. Reilly, President Emeritus and Regent Professor University of Wisconsin System and Senior Fellow, AGB

Introduction:

- Dr. Merrill P. Schwartz, Senior Vice President, Content & Program Strategy, AGB

American institutions of higher education have historically been considered engines of creativity, innovation, and social mobility. Today, however, political polarization, racial injustice, and an ongoing global pandemic threaten the long-term welfare of our nation's colleges and universities. Moreover, the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has strained the finances of many institutions and exposed the level of inequity and exclusion that exist on college campuses.

AGB's *Board of Directors' Statement on Justice, Equity, and Inclusion* reminds governing board members that as fiduciaries their responsibility is not only "safeguarding the financial and tangible assets of institutions," but also to "guard and steward institutional values, mission, campus culture, the educational program and well-being of thousands of human beings, especially students."

This session will examine why addressing issues of equity in student success is a major fiduciary responsibility of governing boards. Participants will also learn how, by embodying the attitudes and actions outlined in AGB's *Principles of Trusteeship*, individual trustees can contribute effectively to the governance challenge of identifying and addressing barriers to the success of students across racial, ethnic, income, and other marginalized groups.

2:35 – 3:25 p.m. *Kentucky: A National Model for Engaging Trustees in the Student Success and Equity Movement*

Speakers:

- Dr. John N. Gardner, Chief Executive Officer and Board Chair, Gardner Institute
- Dr. Victoria McGillin, Associate Vice President, Gardner Institute
- Dr. Monica Flippin-Wynn, Senior Assistant Vice President, Gardner Institute

This session will introduce in more detail the Ascendium-grant funded opportunity for Kentucky college and university trustees and their institutions to take the national lead through a professional development academy and associated demonstration project. The focus of this session will be on trustee roles in support of enhancing student success and equity. These components of the Kentucky student success ecosystem will be considered: understanding the meaning of student success and the related national context and movement; Kentucky-specific student needs; the connection between governing boards and institutional student success; how trustees can support their president's leadership; the trustees' role in supporting institutional continuity; and specific student success information and evidence needed by trustees to shape board policy and governance.

3:35 – 4:35 p.m. *In Pursuit of Equitable Outcomes: An Expert Panel on Student Success*

Panelists:

- Dr. Ron Cole, Provost and Dean of the College, Allegheny College
- Ms. Beverly J. Seay, Board Chair, University of Central Florida and Vice Chair, AGB Board of Directors
- Ms. Helen McGinty Brunty, Co-Director, University Center of the Mountains at Hazard Community and Technical College

Moderator:

- Dr. Kemal M. Atkins, Senior Consultant, AGB

Higher education institutions need to rethink how they can more effectively serve more diverse student populations than the ones for whom they were originally designed (Johnstone, 2019). As universities and colleges pursue equitable student outcomes, collaboration and leadership at all levels of the institution are essential to them achieving and sustaining the cultural change needed to support their efforts.

This panel discussion with institutional and organizational experts will provide participants with an opportunity to hear about the experiences and challenges these leaders faced and overcame to expand access to higher education and narrow equity gaps in student achievement. Participants will leave this session with a deeper understanding of effective strategies for leading change and promoting long-term, institution-wide commitment to student success.

4:40 – 5:00 p.m. *Wrap Up, Closing and Next Steps*

Facilitators:

- Dr. John N. Gardner, Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Gardner Institute
- Dr. Andrew K. Koch, President and Chief Operating & Innovation Officer, Gardner Institute

Introduction:

- Mr. Ed Willis, Resident Fellow, Gardner Institute