Externally-Focused R&D Collaboratories

Ecosystems, Partnerships and Focus

Taylor Eighmy  
President

Heather Shipley  
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost

Pew Leadership Forum on Public Impact in Research
June 12, 2024
### Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program (MPP) (1996-present)
- "Clusters and Competitiveness" (2008)
- "The Rise of Innovation Districts"
- "America’s Advanced Industries" (2015)
- "Urban Research Universities" (2017)
- "The Case for Growth Centers" (2019)
- "Regional Universities and Local Economies" (2021)
- "Funders’ Role in Scaling Education Innovation" (2024)

### National Science Foundation (NSF) (2023-present)
- Robust Partnerships
- Accountable Leadership
- Regional Economic Impact
- Culture of Innovation
- Inclusion at all Levels
- Comprehensive Workforce Development

### U.S. Council on Competitiveness (2015-present)
- "Competing in the Next Economy" (2022)
- "The Future of Place-Based Innovation" (2023)
- Four Recommendations:
  - Regional and national strategies to support specialized regional innovation hubs
  - Expansion and retention of local talent base
  - Inclusive growth and innovation in regional hubs
  - Digital infrastructure and local financing

### National Academies’ Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable (1975-present)
- "Interpreting the Axioms of Innovation" (2023) as one of many examples…
- Strengthen commercialization ecosystem
- Engage underserved communities in STEM
APLU and its Commission on Economic and Community Engagement (CECE) established the Innovation and Economic Prosperity (IEP) Universities Program to help institutions strengthen their strategy and practices in economic and community development and to recognize exemplars.

Ninety-one institutions have earned this distinguished recognition by working with on-campus (faculty, staff, leadership, and students) and off-campus (businesses, local and state government, communities, and others) stakeholders to complete rigorous self-study of their economic engagement enterprise that allows them to identify strengths and growth opportunities.

Institutions complete the program collaboratively with APLU staff and a national community of practice. Ideas are shared across the national community. Once designated, institutions implement their growth and improvement plans and conduct outreach efforts to elevate visibility.
PEW LEADERSHIP FORUM

Strategic External Partnerships Focus

- Collaboration between institutions and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge involving partnerships and reciprocity.

- Partnerships with public and private sector partners to enrich scholarship, research, and creative activity; enhance curriculum, teaching, and learning; prepare citizenry; strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration; address critical societal issues; and contribute to the public good.
Pivoting Institutional Focus Externally: The UTSA Journey in the San Antonio AI, Compute, Cyber and Data Ecosystem

- **Real Estate Acquisitions Downtown (2017)**
- **National Security Collaboration Center and School of Data Science Launches (2018)**
- **SACSCOC Reaffirmation (2020)**
- **San Pedro 1,2 Southwest School of Art Acquisition (2022)**
- **Downtown Place Making “Innovation Ecosystem” (2023)**
- **More Real Estate Acquisitions Downtown (2023)**
- **New College of AI, Computing, Cyber and Data (2024+)**

- **Carnegie Community Engaged Designation (2015)**
- **Strategic Plan (2018)**
- **QEP Classroom To Career Launch (2019)**
- **New Colleges & Schools; HCaP (2021), Klesse (2022), & COLFA (2023)**
- **APLU IEP Designation (2023)**
- **Dell, NIST and UTSA at GUIRR (2023)**
- **Strategic Plan Refresh & Ideation Retreat (2023)**
- **Strategic Communications Focus on Ecosystem, Workforce, Economic Development (2023)**