

Leadership

& Advocacy

“ACE plays a crucial role: clarifying how important a robust higher education system is to our nation’s strength, prosperity, and future. I am honored to be a member of this wonderful and venerable organization, and to be a public champion of the need to maintain America’s unequalled excellence in higher education.”

– John Sexton, President, New York University and Chair of the ACE Board of Directors, 2010-11



ABOUT THE AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (ACE)

ACE is the nation's most influential, respected, and visible higher education association. We represent the presidents of U.S. accredited degree-granting institutions, which include two- and four-year colleges, private and public universities, and nonprofit and for-profit entities. No other association represents the broad interests of higher education's top leaders like ACE.

Our strength lies in our loyal and diverse base of more than 1,800 member institutions, 75 percent of which have been with ACE for more than 10 years. That loyalty stands as a testament to the value derived from membership. We convene representatives from all sectors to collectively tackle the toughest higher education challenges, with a focus on improving access and preparing every student to succeed. Higher education is America's best hope for long-term economic growth and social progress, and ACE's core objective is to advance activities that support institutions, students, faculty, and staff.

Together,
ACE member
institutions serve
80 percent of
today's college
students.

ACE:

- **Leads and Coordinates.** As the nation's largest higher education organization, ACE is at the forefront of the major issues affecting postsecondary education.
- **Represents and Advocates.** As the principal voice of higher education, ACE coordinates the advocacy efforts of the entire community.
- **Serves.** ACE addresses the rapidly changing needs of America's colleges and universities by providing research and identifying innovative practices.

More specifically, ACE focuses on the following areas:

- Increasing **access to and success in postsecondary education** for all students, including adult and underrepresented minority populations.
- Influencing policy issues surrounding **adult education** and working with researchers, policymakers, and foundations to strengthen adult and continuing education.
- Providing **leadership programs** to help institutions leverage the rapidly changing postsecondary education environment and meet the need for diverse and skilled leaders in higher education.
- Fostering **international engagement** among higher education institutions.



“I depend on ACE, as a unifying voice of higher education, to convene, inform, and engage campus leaders from all sectors of higher education.”

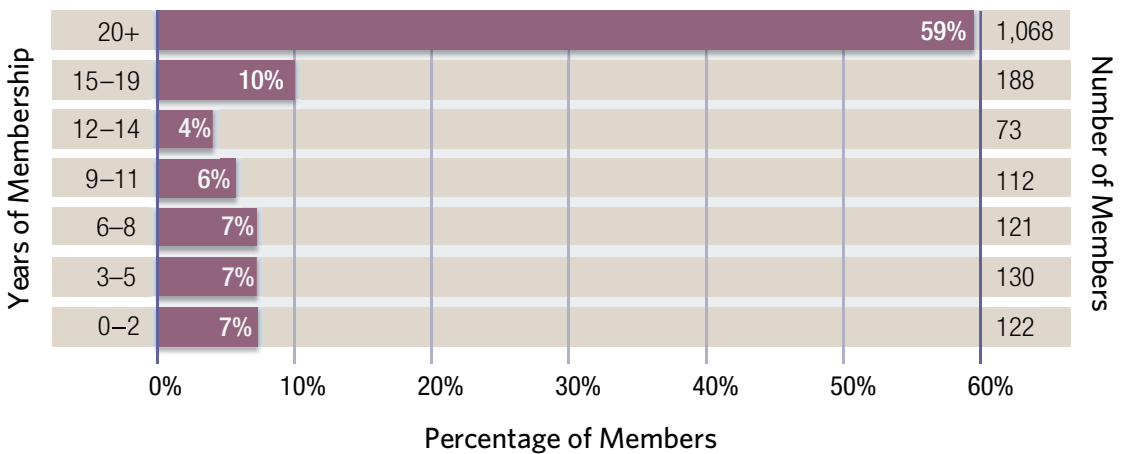
-Eduardo J. Padrón, President, Miami Dade College and Chair of the ACE Board of Directors, 2011-12

MEMBERSHIP IN ACE

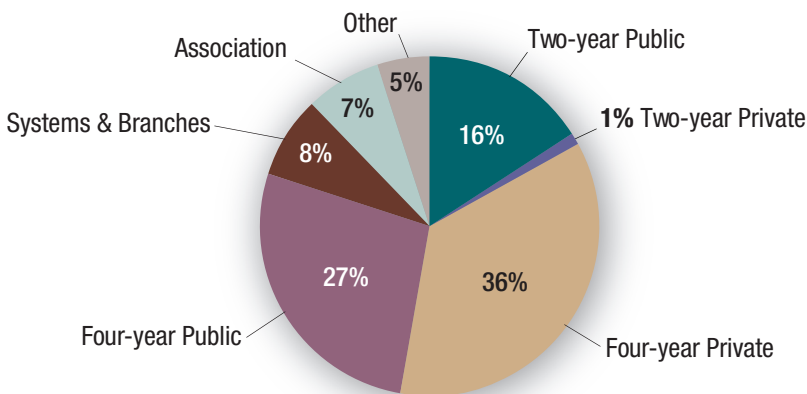
Be a part of the nation’s most influential and respected higher education association. ACE offers two membership categories:

- **Members** include accredited degree-granting institutions, higher education systems, and national and regional higher education associations.
- **Associates** are branch campuses, corporations, executive search firms, foundations, and international organizations and institutions with an interest in higher education.

Distribution of Members, by Years of Membership



ACE Members, by Sector





President to President, the weekly electronic letter from ACE President Molly Corbett Broad to member presidents, serves as a vehicle to keep members abreast of events in Washington, DC.

ADVOCACY

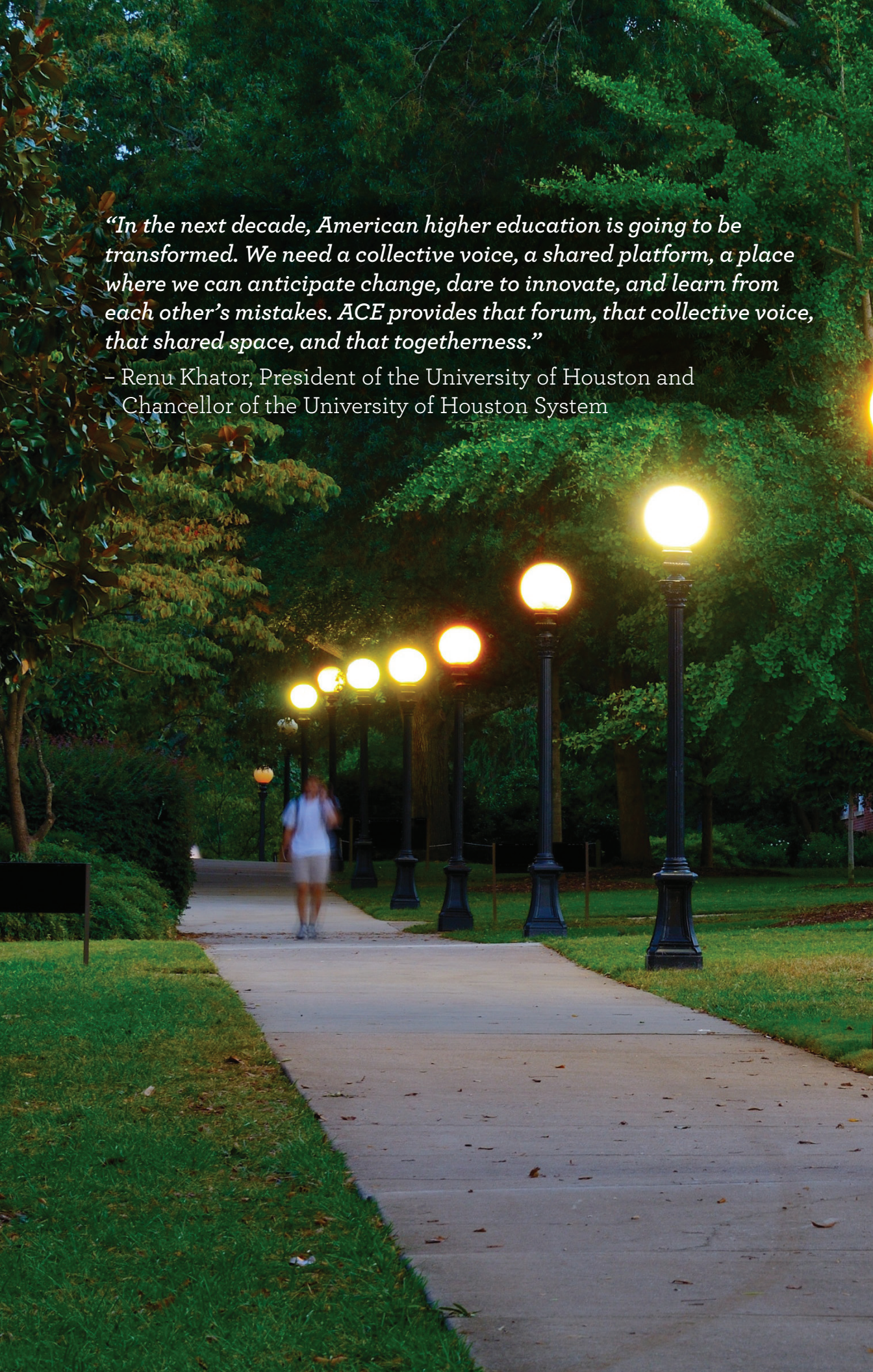
ACE is consistently at the center of federal policy debates in areas critical to higher education. Because of our role as a convener of higher education associations and agencies, the higher education community is able to speak with one clear voice on vital issues affecting institutions and students. In recent years, we have led discussions about Pell Grant funding, scientific research, tax proposals, and many other issues.

As the only organization representing presidents from all sectors, ACE is the key point of contact on higher education matters for Congress and the White House. ACE also regularly represents higher education in relevant court cases, including at the U.S. Supreme Court, and is the most frequently cited organization in the national media on higher education issues.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR ACE MEMBERS

ACE's efforts on behalf of the nation's colleges and universities ensure our members are:

- **Informed and up-to-date** on significant public policy issues affecting higher education;
- **Connected** to federal policymakers as they make critical decisions about institutions and students;
- **Championed in federal and state courts**—including the U.S. Supreme Court—on critical legal issues.



“In the next decade, American higher education is going to be transformed. We need a collective voice, a shared platform, a place where we can anticipate change, dare to innovate, and learn from each other’s mistakes. ACE provides that forum, that collective voice, that shared space, and that togetherness.”

– Renu Khator, President of the University of Houston and
Chancellor of the University of Houston System

ACE LEADERSHIP™

As many of today's higher education leaders begin to retire, America faces a significant challenge. The higher education community must cultivate a diverse and robust pool of leaders to fill these positions and help lead our nation into the future.

As a respected representative for all sectors of higher education, ACE provides administrators multiple opportunities to learn from colleagues and experts. Our programs, services, and research equip leaders with practical skills and tools to make day-to-day decisions and plan for the future.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR ACE MEMBERS

ACE is supporting current leaders and developing the next generation of higher education leadership through the work of four intersecting groups:

EXECUTIVE Leadership Group

The Executive Leadership Group offers special programming for presidents and other senior leaders.

EMERGING Leaders Group

The Emerging Leaders Group, including the highly regarded ACE Fellows Program, focuses on promising administrators, including department chairs.

INCLUSIVE Excellence Group

The Inclusive Excellence Group fosters diversity and inclusion in higher education, particularly among senior leaders.

INSTITUTIONAL Leadership Group

The Institutional Leadership Group is focused on programs, research, and resources that assist senior leaders in improving institutional capacity and effectiveness.

ACE is committed to supporting America's veterans through the development of academic centers and networks that provide up-to-date and accurate information for veterans seeking entry into and support in higher education.



LIFELONG LEARNING

ACE and its member institutions have a historic commitment to adult learners. That means we are well positioned to support the increasing number of Americans who take nontraditional paths to a postsecondary education credential, and who are key to improving the attainment rates that are crucial to keeping America competitive on the world stage.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR ACE MEMBERS

We support institutional efforts to engage, cultivate, and retain successful adult learners through the following programs and initiatives:

- The **Center for Lifelong Learning** serves adult learners and nontraditional students throughout the United States. The center helps ensure that every student who is qualified has access to higher education and the resources needed to succeed.
- The **College Credit Recommendation Service (CREDIT)** helps translate workplace learning and other nontraditional education experiences into academic credits at colleges and universities.
- **ACE's Military Programs** recommend equivalent college credits for armed services members who have military training and experience.
- **ACE's Veterans Programs** provide resources and tools for supporting military and veteran students on campus.

Higher Education for Development (HED) was formed through a cooperative agreement between ACE and USAID, and is governed by the six major presidential higher education associations. HED connects American colleges and universities with postsecondary education institutions internationally to address needs in developing countries.



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

The **Center for Internationalization and Global Engagement** (CIGE) offers programs and services that support the internationalization of higher education.



By virtue of ACE's broad membership, CIGE effectively and efficiently shares information and best practices around this critical issue, with the goals of creating a more internationally aware faculty and staff, a more globally engaged student body, and a network of global connections that enhance the strength and the international viability of U.S. institutions.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR ACE MEMBERS

CIGE works in the following areas to support ACE's international priorities:

- **Supporting international cooperation** on critical higher education issues, largely by promoting outreach and collaboration among higher education organizations throughout the world;
- **Addressing relevant policies and practices** affecting the global engagement of higher education;
- **Helping institutions formulate internationalization strategies** and articulate the benefits of international engagement to diverse stakeholders, in part through providing research and analysis on international issues.



“ACE is a national leader in addressing the major challenges facing the U.S. higher education system, from confronting economic pressures to increasing accessibility and attainment to strengthening the leadership pipeline. These and other issues impact colleges and universities of all types, which is why ACE’s unified voice is more important now than ever before.”

– Brice W. Harris, Chancellor, Los Rios Community College District

“I depend on ACE, as a unifying voice of higher education, to convene, inform, and engage campus leaders from all sectors of higher education on issues of national importance, from federal legislation to legal issues that impact my campus—and those of my colleagues.”

– Ronald A. Crutcher, President, Wheaton College



Leadership and Advocacy

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