Moving the Needle: Advancing Women in Higher Education Leadership  
Press Release Template for Signers

Contact: [Institution’s Media Contact]

**[Insert Institution Name] Signs Commitment to Advance Women Leaders in Higher Education**

[Insert Institution Name] has announced that [Insert Signer's Name and Title] has signed on to the Moving the Needle: Advancing Women in Higher Education Leadership initiative. As a signer, [Insert Signer’s last name] has committed to working toward advancing more women into leadership positions with the goal of ensuring that 50 percent of chief executives at our nation’s higher education institutions will be women by 2030.

The Moving the Needle initiative began in 2010 to increase awareness about the status of women leaders in higher education and encourage decision makers to advance and support more women. The Moving the Needle pledge campaign was launched in January 2016 by the [American Council on Education](https://www.acenet.edu/) (ACE), the major coordinating body for the nation’s higher education institutions. The campaign encourages college, university, and organizational leaders to sign a statement of support to advance women into senior leadership positions in higher education.

[Insert Signer’s Name] joins a group of leaders recognizing that now is a pivotal moment of opportunity. The next decade will see an unprecedented turnover in the American college presidency, as more than half (54 percent) of presidents expect to leave their current posts.

[PLACEHOLDER FOR QUOTE FROM INSTITUTION PRESIDENT]

Although women earn the majority of all college degrees, they have made surprisingly little progress when it comes to gaining the top job at colleges and universities, moving the needle just four percent since 2011. In 2016, only 30 percent of college and university presidencies were occupied by women, according to ACE’s [*American College President Study*](https://www.acenet.edu/news-room/Pages/American-College-President-Study.aspx).

“That the longstanding gender gap in presidential leadership remains wide should alarm us all,” said Gailda Pitre Davis, director of ACE Leadership. “In order to effectively demonstrate the transformative power of higher education, we need a diverse community of innovative leaders—and that means achieving greater gender diversity.”

When leaders sign the Moving the Needle pledge, they commit to:

* Nominate and promote qualified women to the highest positions of leadership in higher education wherever and whenever possible.
* Provide opportunities for emerging women leaders to gain access to the skills and experiences necessary to advance.
* Educate others, including but not limited to members of the board, faculty, and administrators, on the benefits of gender-diversified leadership.
* Empower teams in their own institutions to sponsor women leaders.

For more information on the Moving the Needle: Advancing Women in Higher Education Leadership initiative, please visit [www.acenet.edu/MTN](http://www.acenet.edu/MTN).

**About ACE**

*ACE is a membership organization that mobilizes the higher education community to shape effective public policy and foster innovative, high-quality practice. As the major coordinating body for all the nation’s higher education institutions, ACE represents more than 1,700 college and university presidents and related associations. For more information, please visit* ***www.acenet.edu or follow ACE on Twitter @ACEducation.***