The Alliance has established itself as a leader on immigration and higher education issues, and I am grateful for the opportunity to join with other higher education leaders to engage in advocacy on the immigration issues that are so important for our university community.

RAJ ECHAMBADI, PRESIDENT
ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Message from Presidents’ Alliance Co-Chairs and Executive Director:

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

In December 2017, we started the Presidents’ Alliance with 29 presidents and chancellors who wanted to address the urgent immigration issues impacting their students, campuses, communities, and the nation. Now, as we mark our fifth anniversary as an organization, we have more than 550 member institutions in 43 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Our growth in just five years is a testament to your commitment as higher education leaders to an educational system in which immigration status is not a barrier to success and international students are welcomed on our campuses and in our nation.

During the final months of 2022, we came the closest to immigration reform as we have been in the past ten years. Senators Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona and Thom Tillis of North Carolina negotiated a potential compromise that included both Dream and border security legislation and would have provided permanent protections and legal status for approximately two million undocumented students and other Dreamers - both with and without DACA.

While we were greatly disappointed that the compromise was not included in the omnibus spending bill, we were deeply heartened by the engagement of our members, who wrote op-eds, held campus events, engaged with their Senators, and came to D.C. to make the case for permanent protections for Dreamers.

Without legislative action to protect Dreamers and with the Supreme Court likely, in the future, to uphold the 5th Circuit’s ruling that DACA is unconstitutional, we will need to redouble efforts on behalf of these students, working with all our allies and partners in higher education and the business, civic and faith communities. We hope to build on the core support we all helped generate in the last Congress, even as we acknowledge that achieving this important goal will take the sustained effort of us all.

We are seeing our work come to fruition on other fronts. In January, the Biden Administration announced the launch of Welcome Corps, a new program that will allow individuals and organizations, including colleges and universities, to privately sponsor refugees. The announcement of private sponsorship— including sponsorship opportunities for colleges and universities—is a transformational moment for refugee access to U.S. higher education, as it creates an education and immigration pathway that has never existed in the U.S. and one for which our Alliance has been a leading voice.

2022 also saw an increase in the federal government’s pairing of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) with Special Student Relief (SSR), which the Presidents’ Alliance and others have long advocated for as a means of offering protection to international students whose home countries are experiencing a crisis. To date, nationals of 17 countries may access SSR or SSR/TPS benefits, resulting in over a half million TPS and 21,000 potential recipients of SSR. Additionally, the Department of State extended visa interview waivers for international students and scholars through 2023 and made commitments to further improve visa processing, which we also have been pressing for.

Our future agenda is ambitious, and we need your continued support and engagement. In 2023, we will work vigorously to pursue both administrative action and bipartisan legislative opportunities to support undocumented students and permanent protections for Dreamers, while advancing greater efforts at the state and campus levels. We will seize the current opportunity to increase refugee student access to U.S. higher education by mobilizing colleges and universities to enroll and support refugee and displaced students through both private sponsorship and other immigration pathways. We will build on the successes achieved for international students and pursue policy changes to better attract and retain talented students and scholars from around the world to come study, stay, and contribute here in the U.S.

As we wrap up our first five years as an organization and look forward to the next, we know that none of our work would be possible without all of you – our members, partners, and supporters. Thank you for being a part of our Alliance!

Sincerely,

Louis Caldera
Co-Chair, Steering Committee
Senior Advisor, Presidents’ Alliance

Elsa Núñez
Co-Chair, Steering Committee
President
Eastern Connecticut State University

Nancy Cantor
Co-Chair, Steering Committee
Chancellor
Rutgers University – Newark

Miriam Feldblum
Executive Director
Presidents’ Alliance
The Presidents’ Alliance is a nonpartisan, nonprofit education and advocacy organization. As the only national organization exclusively focused on the intersection of higher education and immigration, we engage higher education leaders to support forward-looking immigration policies and practices.

Who We Are

Bringing together diverse colleges and universities in collective action on immigration policy is essential for the health of American higher education and for our democracy.

NANCY CANTOR, CHANCELLOR, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY-NEWARK

AT-A-GLANCE

PRIORITY POPULATIONS

100+ instances of technical assistance given

84,819 users on Higher Ed Immigration Portal

3,813 registrants for 12 webinars and briefings

96 media mentions
FEDERAL
The Presidents’ Alliance is a key player among advocates working on immigration policies impacting Dreamers - both with and without DACA. Our federal activities in 2022 focused on a pathway to citizenship or permanent residency for Dreamers via bipartisan legislation and Administrative actions that can increase access to higher education and career development opportunities for undocumented students.

STATE
With legislative gridlock at the federal level, we focused on creating and sharing resources and building coalitions to address state-level issues. The passage of Prop 308 in Arizona, which gives undocumented students access to in-state tuition and financial aid, suggests that state actions can be a successful approach for improved policies that support undocumented students.

Spotlight Initiative: The State Equity Table
The State Equity Table brings together 15 national and state organizations to coordinate support for expanding or defending in-state tuition, financial aid, and licensure policies for undocumented and refugee students. Table members share intelligence about legislative proposals and other efforts and produce resources that can be used by state advocates, campuses, and other stakeholders.
CAMPUS

Last year, we developed resources to help campuses become more inclusive of undocumented students and curated spaces for practitioners who work with undocumented students to connect. Our webinar, “Uplifting Campus Resources: Effective Practices to Support Undocumented Students in Higher Education” had almost 1,000 registrants, demonstrating the strong need to support practitioners engaged in this work and share resources across institutions.

SUCCESS CONVENING

In March, we held the SUCCESS Convening—Supporting Undocumented Students’ College Access and Career Equity—Strategies for SUCCESS.

200 people from 67 institutions and organizations attended. Many attendees refer to that event as a key opportunity to build partnerships with practitioners with similar interests and work. Building on the SUCCESS convening, we are launching in 2023 a community of practice for campus practitioners who work with undocumented students. We will hold the next SUCCESS convening in 2024.

The Higher Ed Immigration Portal has become a go-to source for colleges and universities, students, and national and state partners to learn more about state policies, enrollments in higher education, economic data, and effective practices and resources related to immigrant and international students in higher education.

Through developing and curating content for the Higher Ed Immigration Portal, we brought to light key issues pertaining to undocumented, refugee, and international students and alumni including:
The Biden Administration recently launched Welcome Corps, a program that would allow individuals and organizations to sponsor refugees directly in what the State Department is calling “the boldest innovation in refugee resettlement in four decades.” The program will have an education component, allowing refugee students to simultaneously enroll in U.S. higher education and be admitted to the U.S. as a refugee with a path to permanent residency. The inclusion of an education pathway in the plans for a private sponsorship program is a true testament to the momentum built by the Presidents’ Alliance and our partners over the past two years through our RESPONSE Campaign (Refugee Sponsorship for Education), for which we were recognized as a finalist in the PIEoneer of the Year Award.

Complementing our work on college and university sponsorship, the Presidents’ Alliance expanded resources, expertise, and technical assistance to institutions enrolling and supporting displaced and refugee students.

KEY VICTORIES INCLUDE:

- The Department of State extended visa interview waivers through 2023 and made commitments to further improve visa processing.
- Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designations and Special Student Relief (SSR) announcements are increasing as the Administration makes more country-specific assessments. They are being published at the same time, making it easier for international students from impacted countries to study and remain in the U.S.
- A Congressional letter to the Department of State signed by more than 40 members of Congress commended progress on the visa process and urged that efficiencies continue.
We are deeply grateful to the many member institutions that contribute to the Presidents’ Alliance through our voluntary annual institutional contribution program. For our fiscal year that ended in September 2022, we received $431,375 in membership contributions from 266 institutions.

We are thrilled to announce that we launched in October a Leadership Circle, a small group of dedicated members who are leaders in our work and committed to enhanced support of the mission of the Presidents’ Alliance.

The inaugural members are:

- President Michael Crow
  Arizona State University
- President John J. DeGioia
  Georgetown University
- President Christopher Eisgruber
  Princeton University
- Chancellor Gene Block
  University of California, Los Angeles

We offer our heartfelt thanks to the following foundations and funders who have supported our work and play a key role in propelling our success:

- Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
- Anonymous Donor (3)
- Carnegie Corporation of New York
- ECMC Foundation
- FWD.us and FWD.us Educational Fund
- G. Barrie Landry
- The Kresge Foundation
- The Lumina Foundation
- Open Society Foundations
- Open Society Policy Center
- Shapiro Foundation
- Walder Foundation

We have ambitious goals for FY23 as we launch new initiatives and expand our staffing and program capacity. That’s why we need your support.
Membership by the Numbers

29 new members joined in 2022

22% increase in our annual membership contributions

43 states, D.C., and Puerto Rico

552 member institutions

DISTRIBUTION OF PRESIDENTS’ ALLIANCE MEMBER INSTITUTIONS BY CARNEGIE CLASSIFICATION (552 INSTITUTION)

- Special Focus**
- Associates*
- Baccalaureate
- Master’s
- Doctoral

Public
Private

77 28 12 2 3
106 77 70 75 74

27% 21% 20% 6% 3%

A
Adelphi University
Adler University
Agnes Scott College
American International College
American University
Amherst College
Antioch College
Arizona State University
Arizona Western College
Arkansas State University
Arkansas Tech University
Ashland University
Assumption Community College
Augustana College
Augustana College
Austin Community College District
Avila University

B
Babson College
Bard College
Barnard College
Barton College
Baruch College, CUNY
Bates College
Beloit College
Benedict College
Bennington College
Bentley University
Berea College
Berkshire Community College
Big Bend Community College

C
Cabrini University
California Institute of Integral Studies
California Institute of Technology
California Institute of the Arts
California Lutheran University
California Polytechnic State University
California Polytechnic University, Pomona
California State University
California State University San Marcos
California State University, Bakersfield
California State University, Channel Islands
California State University, Chico
California State University, Dominquez Hills

California State University, East Bay
California State University, Fresno
California State University, Fullerton
California State University, Long Beach
California State University, Los Angeles
California State University, Monterey Bay
California State University, Northridge
California State University, Sacramento
California State University, San Bernardino
California State University, San Marcos
California State University, Stanislaus
Calvin University
Cambridge College
Cape Cod Community College
Capital Community College
Capital East Region, Connecticut State Community College System
Carleton College
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Centenary University
Central Arizona College
Central College, Houston Community College System
Central Connecticut State University
Central Washington University
Concord College
Chapman University
Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science
Chamber Oak State College
Chatham University
CIAM (California Institute of Advanced Management)
City University of New York
Claremont Graduate University

* Associate’s include institutions that grant Associate Degrees only and those that grant Associate’s and Baccalaureate Degrees
** Special Focus includes all Institutions classified as Special Focus Four-Year Institutions

Membership by the Numbers
The Presidents’ Alliance Affiliate Partners program is for organizations that are aligned with our mission and interested in the benefits of a more formal connection with the Presidents’ Alliance.

Affiliate Partners

College Track
EnglishUSA
IES Abroad
Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies
Jesuit Refugee Services, USA
Refugee & Migrant Education Network
TheDream.US
World Education Services (WES)

Advisory Groups

FEDERAL POLICY ADVISORY TABLE
The Federal Policy Advisory Table, composed primarily of federal relations officers of member institutions, provides early input, feedback, guidance, and advice on the Alliance’s federal policy priorities and advocacy.

LEGAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
The Council provides input, insights and recommendations on all types of legal issues and litigation actions that the Presidents’ Alliance should pursue and support as part of its mission to support undocumented, other immigrant, refugee, and international students and scholars in higher education.

STUDENT STRATEGY TABLES
The Presidents’ Alliance has two student strategy tables that consist of student leaders from undocumented, refugee, other immigrant, and international student communities. Members help the Presidents’ Alliance by ensuring our work and objectives are informed by and responsive to the priorities, needs, experiences, and expertise of those who are directly impacted by immigration policies.

Join Our Movement

What began as a founding group of 29 members in December 2017 has grown to more than 550 presidents and chancellors across 43 states, Washington D.C., and Puerto Rico. And we’re still growing! If you would like more information about how to join as either a member institution or an affiliate partner, please contact info@presidentsalliance.org.

The Presidents’ Alliance is a nonpartisan, nonprofit educational and advocacy organization that brings college and university presidents and chancellors together around the immigration issues that impact our students, campuses, communities, and nation. We work to support undocumented, international and refugee students, and advance forward-looking immigration policies and practices at the federal level, in our states, and across our college campuses.
This is an urgent time for us to support our students. The Presidents’ Alliance plays an important role convening institutions who are dedicated to this work and advocating for important issues.

JOHN J. DEGIOIA, PRESIDENT,
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY