

# THE PROMISE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

TEACHING, LEARNING, AND STUDENT SUCCESS

## AN INFORMATION BRIEF FROM THE AGB GUARDIANS INITIATIVE™

“Colleges and universities are in a period of profound transformation brought about by a clear realization that the diverse needs of today’s student population can only be met through changes at the very core of the academic enterprise: organization and delivery of instruction.”

## Trustees should be ready to share how higher education is delivering on ambitious promises around student learning. Here are just a few takeaways from *The Promise of Higher Education*:

- **Colleges and universities are reimagining the academic enterprise.** High-impact student learning experiences, including undergraduate research, writing-intensive courses, first-year experiences, internships, service learning, and e-portfolios, are becoming the norm. (p. 3)
- **Institutions are providing educational programs that students want and the economy needs.** Colleges and universities are responding to student demand and delivering programs in high-wage fields such as business, healthcare, and STEM while remaining committed to developing general skills employers have traditionally relied upon, such as critical thinking, communication, and problem-solving. (p. 6)
- **Colleges and universities are innovating to promote degree completion and keep up with national demand.** A record 70 million Americans—nearly 50 percent of those aged 25-29—now hold college degrees. However, the Lumina Foundation reports the supply of workers with college credentials could still fall 16 million short of the numbers needed by 2025. (p. 9)