

# LUMINA FOUNDATION STATE POLICY AGENDA

# STRATEGY LABS

State Policy to Increase Higher Education Attainment

AUGUST 2015

## 20 EVIDENCED-BASED POLICIES AND PRACTICES

1. Set an ambitious goal for increased attainment & monitor progress toward the goal
2. Develop a statewide plan that includes policy & practice changes needed to reach goal
3. Create a comprehensive data system to measure student progression & outcomes
4. Adopt accountability metrics & dashboards to measure progress toward the goal
5. Support efforts to define & use learning outcomes at the degree & certificate level
6. Create user friendly public information tools for students & families
7. Reach consensus on the financial resources necessary to reach state goal
8. Adopt & sustain outcomes based funding policies
9. Develop lower cost pathways to degrees, including accelerated degree programs
10. Develop & implement a comprehensive approach to student financial aid
11. Encourage & support full-time enrollment & progress
12. Encourage institutions' mission & capacity to evolve to meet state & regional needs
13. Adopt guided pathways to credentials & require institutions to monitor progress toward on-time completion
14. Adopt statewide policies to guarantee transfer between public institutions
15. Align statewide K-12 assessments with college readiness standards & placement exams
16. Enact credit hour limits
17. Establish statewide system to award & recognize credits through assessment of prior learning
18. Ensure competency based programs for adults are available statewide
19. Expand availability of online learning by adopting SARA
20. Create statewide program to identify adults with some college but no postsecondary credential & encourage re-enrollment & completion.

IMPROVE STUDENT OUTCOMES

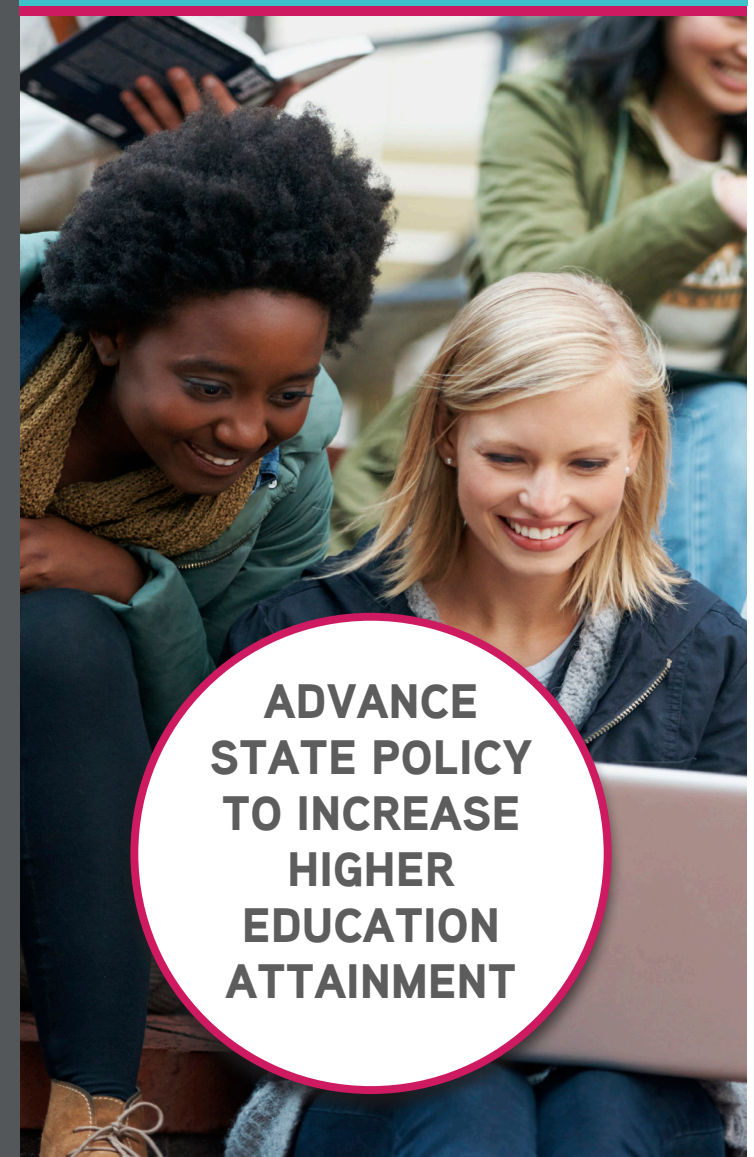
ALIGN INVESTMENTS

CREATE SMARTER PATHWAYS

## STRATEGY LABS

State Policy to Increase Higher Education Attainment

[StrategyLabs.LuminaFoundation.org](http://StrategyLabs.LuminaFoundation.org)



**ADVANCE  
STATE POLICY  
TO INCREASE  
HIGHER  
EDUCATION  
ATTAINMENT**



## GOAL 2025

To increase the proportion of Americans with high-quality degrees, certificates and other credentials to 60% by 2025.

## OBJECTIVES

- Introduce new thinking and non-partisan research to a broad group of state policy stakeholders;
- Improve awareness of data, the needs of the state, and policy options; and
- Build will to adopt, enhance and sustain public policies that can help improve student outcomes.

## STATE POLICY AGENDA

Designed as a guide to help states to increase higher education attainment and reach Goal 2025. It includes 20-evidenced based policies within three core elements:

### Improve quality of student outcomes in terms of completion, learning and employment

Reorienting and expanding the nation's higher education system around student outcomes is a key step toward increasing postsecondary degree attainment among our working age population.

#### POLICIES 1-6

### Align investments with state priorities and student needs

Systems of higher education are being asked to serve more students and to ensure their success with fewer resources. To succeed, states will need to rethink how they allocate resources to both institutions and students.

#### POLICIES 7-12

### Create smarter pathways for students

States and their systems of higher education need to create clearer, faster and smarter pathways to degrees for traditional and nontraditional students alike.

#### POLICIES 13-20

## STRATEGY LABS

Strategy Labs are an open platform for leaders and influencers in all 50 states to share research and data, encourage peer learning and provide opportunities for on-request support from Lumina Foundation and its state policy partners.

Technical assistance and consulting support is provided to state leaders working to increase higher education attainment in their states, including:

- governors' offices & their staffs
- legislators & their staffs
- state and system-level leaders & their staffs
- college & university leaders,
- local non-profit organizations and
- business leaders.

Lumina Foundation reviews technical assistance requests. HCM Strategists manages the process and reimbursement for technical assistance occurs through the Tides Center. For more information and to request the Terms & Conditions and Application, please send an email to [luminastrategylabs@hcmstrategists.com](mailto:luminastrategylabs@hcmstrategists.com).



## FOUR TYPES OF STRATEGY LABS SUPPORT

### Non-Partisan, Evidence-Based Policy Expertise

- Policy expertise provided in writing, by webinars, teleconferences and on-site
- Keynote speakers and discussants for public meetings of stakeholders
- Policy expert participation in meetings with state education policy executives
- Expert, non-partisan testimony upon written request in the name of a governmental body, committee or subcommittee (to be made available on a bipartisan basis)

### Convening and Facilitation

- Peer learning engagements in states that are exemplars in policy areas
- Multi-state policy discussions to explore issues and approaches with peers and experts
- Meeting preparation and facilitation, including board meetings, workshops and summits

### Advising Policymakers

- Expert, non-partisan testimony to a bipartisan governmental body or committee upon written request
- Individualized briefings for state higher education executive officers and policymakers

### Research

- Original data collection and analysis
- Written analyses of policy alternatives
- Research and other evidence translated concisely for state policymakers

*As a private foundation, Lumina does not support or oppose any legislation. Lumina provides higher education information, nonpartisan research and analysis to advance Goal 2025.*