

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings from the [Center for Applied Research in Postsecondary Education \(CARPE\)](#) at the [American Institutes for Research[®] \(AIR[®]\)](#). We are kicking off our first newsletter of 2022 to share updates on new projects, recent publications, and new postsecondary resources.

[New Publication: A Snapshot of the Shifting Landscape of Noncredit Community College Workforce Education](#)

AIR's [Kathy Hughes](#) coauthored a recent publication funded by Lumina Foundation that seeks to better understand noncredit workforce education and its future. To assess the range of existing community college noncredit programs, interviews were conducted with administrators at 29 U.S. colleges. The data show that community college noncredit workforce education varies greatly across colleges, and many of its aspects are undergoing transformation.

[New Project: Investigating the Capacity of Historically Black Colleges and Universities to Develop, Accommodate, and Graduate Low-Income STEM Students](#)

AIR has partnered with [Quality Education for Minorities](#) to expand effective strategies to support talented, low-income students pursuing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) at historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs). For this new National Science Foundation-funded project, AIR's [Jennifer Hudson](#) will lead mixed-methods research on the capacity of HBCUs to develop, accommodate, and graduate STEM students.

[New Project: Completing Financial Aid Application as a High School Graduation Requirement in Texas](#)

Through a grant with the Institute of Education Sciences, AIR's [Lynn Mellor](#) and Jason Lee are examining the implementation and outcomes associated with Texas's enactment of a statewide policy requiring students to complete a financial aid application as a high school graduation requirement. The study aims to learn how districts are supporting students and parents regarding completing college financial aid applications and how this may lead to increased college enrollment for Texas high school students.

[New Resource: IPEDS Data Collection and Release Timing](#)

AIR staff support the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), and recently we created a resource page on the IPEDS data collection and release process. The page also provides guidance for data reporters and users on issues related to survey components and web tools for data analyses.

[New Press: AIR Commentary on National Student Clearinghouse Report: Rising College Completion Rates](#)

A recent [report](#) from the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center found that the national 6-year completion rate for students who started college in 2015 reached 62.2 percent. [Amy Feygin](#), principal researcher at AIR who helps lead the [College Completion Network](#), was interviewed about the report in Inside Higher Ed. Feygin highlighted that despite this increase, college completion rates going forward remain a concern, particularly given that fewer students continued their enrollment during the pandemic. She also stressed that both academic and non-academic factors influence students' ability to complete.

[New Recorded Event: AIR Equity Initiative Roundtable—Building Bridges to Equity](#)

On February 23, 2022, the [AIR Equity Initiative](#) hosted the second in a series of equity-focused roundtable discussions. A panel was followed by a Q&A with experts who explored approaches to reducing bias and promoting diversity and inclusion within organizations and in the grant-making and policymaking processes. The experts and AIR staff discussed how these approaches can enhance research and technical assistance and improve policy.

Stay in touch and spread the word about CARPE:

- Forward this newsletter to your partners and colleagues.
- Check out and share our website and its many resources on postsecondary research and practice: [carpe.air.org](#).
- Follow us using [#AIRCARPE](#) and [@AIRInforms](#).

Sincerely,
Alexandria



Alexandria Walton Radford, PhD

Director

Center for Applied Research in Postsecondary Education (CARPE)
American Institutes for Research



About AIR

Established in 1946, with headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, the American Institutes for Research[®] (AIR[®]) is a nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization that conducts behavioral and social science research and delivers technical assistance to solve some of the most urgent challenges in the U.S. and around the world. We advance evidence in the areas of education, health, the workforce, human services, and international development to create a better, more equitable world. For more information, visit [AIR.ORG](#).