

Carnegie Classification Redesign



UPDATES: REIMAGINING HIGHER EDUCATION CLASSIFICATION

Spring 2023

ACE[®] American
Council on
Education[®]



**Carnegie
Foundation**
for the Advancement
of Teaching

ACE-CARNEGIE PARTNERSHIP

- ACE and the Carnegie Foundation partnered in February 2022 to:
 - Bring together the universal and elective classifications into one home at ACE
 - Refine the Classification system to better reflect the public purpose, mission, focus, and impact of higher education
 - Develop a new Social and Economic Mobility Classification



Carnegie Foundation
for the Advancement of Teaching

VISION

Redesign the Carnegie Classifications to be more usable and modern, better describing the diverse landscape within higher education and incentivizing actions that benefit students.

What Does Success Look Like?

Recognizing a range of missions and priorities

Supporting and celebrating outcomes
that improve students' lives

Creating peer groups for collaboration and study

Better equipping funders – federal, state, and private –
to account for and reward student-centered activity

NEW AND ENHANCED CLASSIFICATIONS

ACE is revisiting the existing methodology and seeking to establish new norms that motivate institutional transformation and learner-centric outcomes



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- We have been meeting with as many institutions as possible to hear about their experience with and ideas for the Carnegie Classifications

200+ unique institutions

have attended small group or 1:1 meetings

3,500+ higher education leaders

have attended meetings, presentations, webinars, and conference sessions

Other notable meetings

- Federal officials
 - U.S. Department of Education
 - WH Office of Science and Technology Policy
 - Domestic Policy Council
 - National Science Foundation
 - U.S. Department of Defense-housed initiatives
- Groups representing and advocating for minority-serving populations
 - Thurgood Marshall College Fund
 - Alliance of Hispanic-Serving Research Universities
 - At least 28 HBCUs and 30 HSIs

INSTITUTIONAL ROUNDTABLE MEMBERS

- **Sylvia Burwell**, President, American University
- **Roslyn Clark Artis**, President, Benedict College
- **Sue Ellspermann**, President, Ivy Tech Community College
- **John DeGioia**, President, Georgetown University
- **Joan Gabel**, President, University of Minnesota
- **Carrie Besnette Hauser**, President and CEO, Colorado Mountain College
- **Anne Kress**, President, Northern Virginia Community College
- **Paul LeBlanc**, President, Southern New Hampshire University
- **Candice McQueen**, President, Lipscomb University
- **Juan Sánchez Muñoz**, Chancellor, University of California - Merced
- **Thomas Parham**, President, California State University - Dominguez Hills
- **Bill Pink**, President, Ferris State University
- **Madeline Pumariega**, President, Miami Dade College
- **Félix Matos Rodríguez**, Chancellor, City University of New York
- **Philip Rogers**, Chancellor, East Carolina University
- **Tom Stritikus**, President, Fort Lewis College
- **Kim Wilcox**, Chancellor, University of California - Riverside
- **David Wilson**, President, Morgan State University
- **Kevin Worthen**, President, Brigham Young University

TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL MEMBERS

- **Kyle Whitman (chair)**, Senior Director of Research and Intelligence, Arizona State University
- **Sandy Baum**, Senior Fellow, Urban Institute
- **Anthony Carnevale**, Professor and Research Director, Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce
- **Wil Del Pilar**, Vice President of Higher Education Policy and Practice, Ed Trust
- **John Friedman**, Professor of Economics, Brown University; founding co-Director, Opportunity Insights
- **Linda García**, Executive Director, Center for Community College Student Engagement
- **Sylvia Hurtado**, Professor, Graduate School of Education and Information Studies at UCLA
- **Michael Itzkowitz**, Senior Fellow, Third Way
- **Erin Lynch**, Former Associate Provost of Scholarship, Research, and Innovation, Winston-Salem State University; President, Quality Education for Minorities (QEM) Network
- **Anne-Marie Núñez**, Executive Director, Diana Natalicio Institute for Hispanic Student Success, University of Texas at El Paso
- **Hironao Okahana**, Assistant Vice President for Research, American Council on Education
- **Cecilia Orphan**, Associate Professor of Higher Education, University of Denver; Director of Partnerships, Alliance for Research on Regional Colleges
- **Deborah Santiago**, Chief Executive Officer, Excelencia in Education
- **David Troutman**, Deputy Commissioner of Academic Affairs and Innovation, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB)
- **Desiree Zerquera**, Associate Professor for Higher Education and Student Affairs and Department Chair, University of San Francisco School of Education

WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE

WEBSITE

We just launched a new website last month, which combines the two separate universal and elective sites, improves key functionality/user experience, and has a new look and feel.

Phase 2 of the website updates will include new interactive and data visualization tools and lay the groundwork for the SEM and additional electives.



A screenshot of the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education website. The page features a dark blue header with navigation links: Carnegie Classification, American Council on Education, Higher Education Today, and Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education. Below the header, the main content area is light blue and contains the title "CARNEGIE CLASSIFICATION OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION" and a circular sunburst chart showing "3939 Institutions" categorized into various types like Doctoral, Master's, and Bachelor's. A "Classification Lookup" section at the bottom includes a search bar with the text "Enter institution name" and a magnifying glass icon.

About the Carnegie Classification®

The Carnegie Classification® is the leading framework for recognizing and describing institutional diversity in U.S. higher education. In 1970, the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education began developing a classification of colleges and universities to support its program of research and policy analysis. The framework was first published in 1973 and is now updated every 3 years to reflect changes among colleges and universities.

[Learn more about the Carnegie Classification >](#)

246

Institutions are classified as Special Focus Four-Year: Faith-Related Institutions

352

Institutions hold the Community Engagement Classification

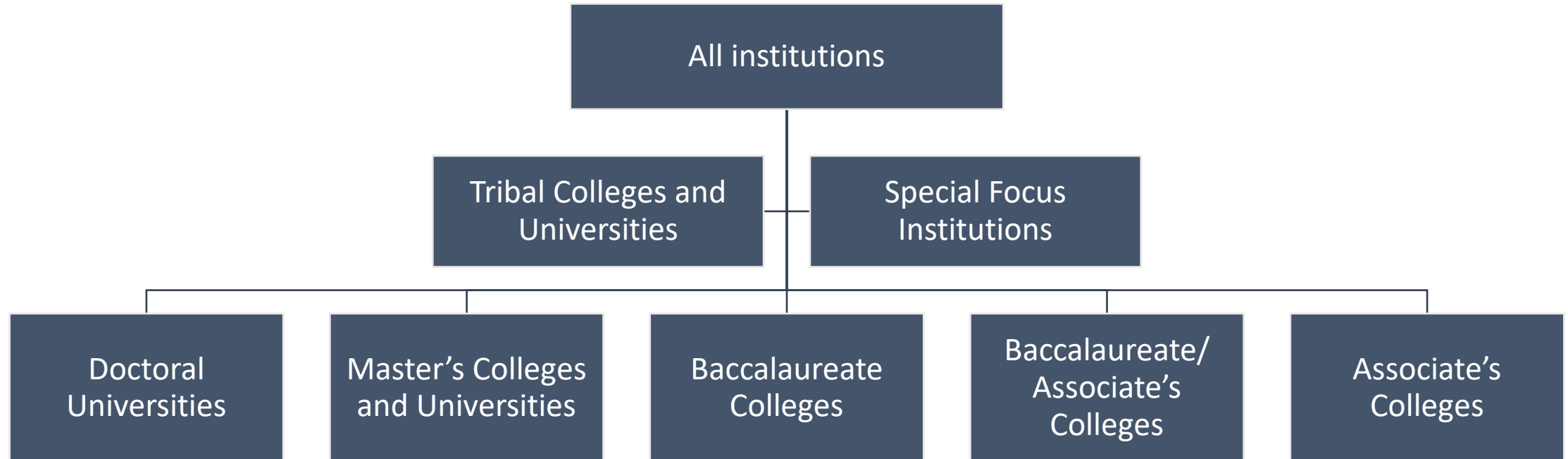
UNIVERSAL CLASSIFICATIONS:
DESIGNING A NEW SOCIAL AND
ECONOMIC MOBILITY CLASSIFICATION

WE HAVE BEEN OBSERVING AND CONSIDERING

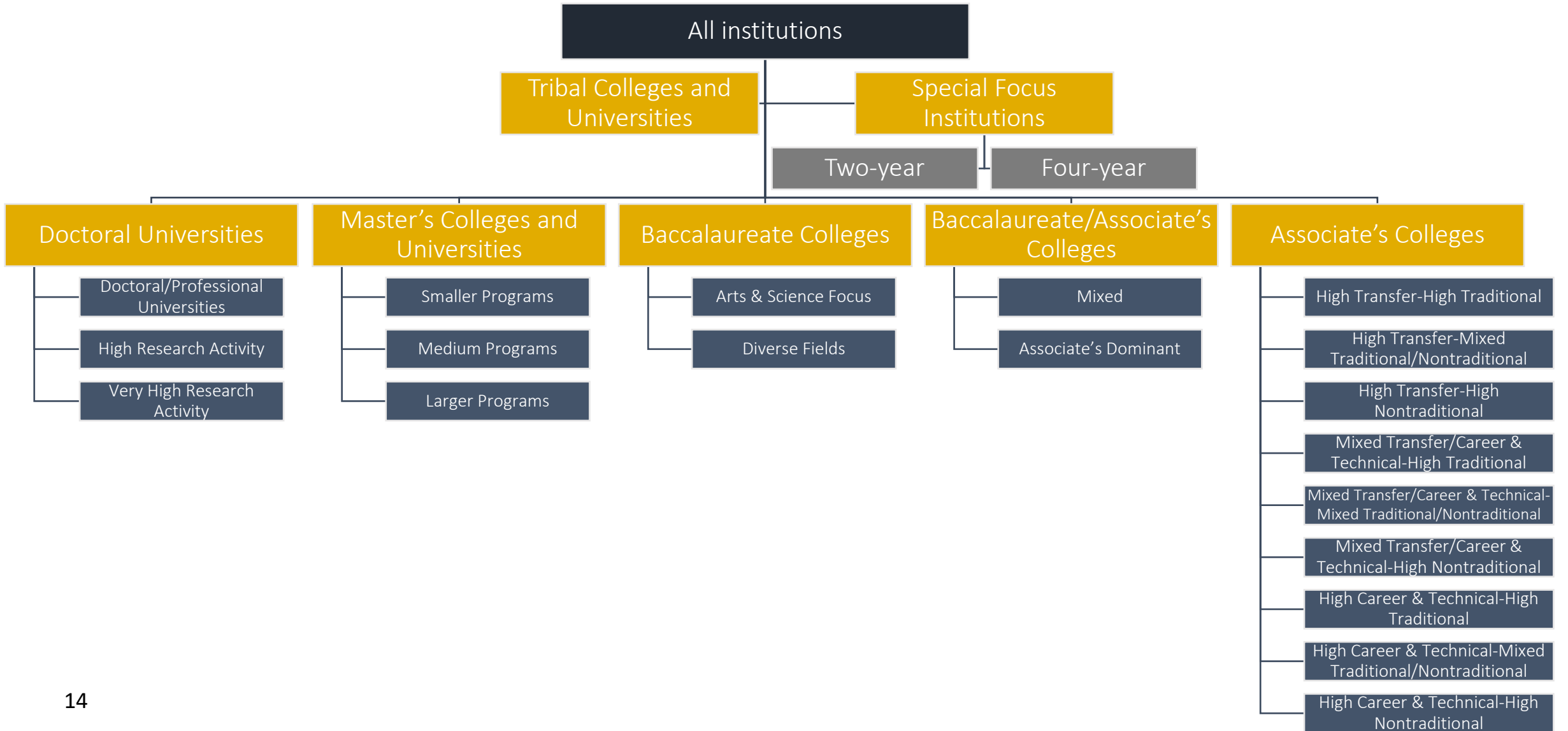
- Does the Basic methodology group similar institutions?
- How to reflect multiple characteristics, not a single label
- Ways the classification has been manipulated for the sole purpose of US News rankings
- Domination of the conversation around R1 and R2
- Institutions are making and acting on plans now to attempt to change their classification

STRUCTURE FOR THE BASIC CLASSIFICATION

IN TOTAL, THERE ARE 33 CLASSIFICATIONS



CURRENT BASIC CLASSIFICATION



POTENTIAL DATA IN THE 2024 SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC MOBILITY MODEL

THESE ARE PRELIMINARY, DRAFT IDEAS IN CONSIDERATION AND SERVE AS EXAMPLES ONLY

INSTITUTIONS FIRST WILL BE GROUPED BY CHARACTERISTICS LIKE THESE

- Size
- Socio-economic status
- Racial diversity
- Geographic location
- Program length

INSTITUTIONS THEN WILL BE SORTED BY SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC OUTCOMES

- Retention/persistence
- Graduation, completion, and retention rates
- Salary and job placement
 - Adjustments for location and profession
- Debt repayment
- Mobility
- Other social indicators
 - e.g., health, voting

ONE WAY TO PRESENT THE CLASSIFICATION

- Group institutions based on similar characteristics
- Tier them based on available data, with adjustments for location

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP ...
Tier 1 – Very high SEM	Tier 1 – Very high SEM	Tier 1 – Very high SEM	Tier 1 – Very high SEM
Tier 2 – High SEM	Tier 2 – High SEM	Tier 2 – High SEM	Tier 2 – High SEM
Tier 3 – Medium SEM	Tier 3 – Medium SEM	Tier 3 – Medium SEM	Tier 3 – Medium SEM
Tier 4 – Low SEM	Tier 4 – Low SEM	Tier 4 – Low SEM	Tier 4 – Low SEM
Tier 5 – Very low SEM	Tier 5 – Very low SEM	Tier 5 – Very low SEM	Tier 5 – Very low SEM

ONE WAY TO PRESENT THE CLASSIFICATION

- Group institutions based on similar characteristics
- Sort them based on available earnings data, with adjustments for location, race, and gender

GROUP 1

Low access, high earnings	High access, high earnings
Low access, low earnings	High access, low earnings

GROUP 2

Low access, high earnings	High access, high earnings
Low access, low earnings	High access, low earnings

UNIVERSAL CLASSIFICATIONS: REDESIGNING THE BASIC CLASSIFICATION

HOW THE CARNEGIE CLASSIFICATIONS ARE USED BY US NEWS

Doctoral Universities

National Universities

Master's Colleges and Universities

Regional Universities

Baccalaureate Colleges: Arts and Sciences

National Colleges

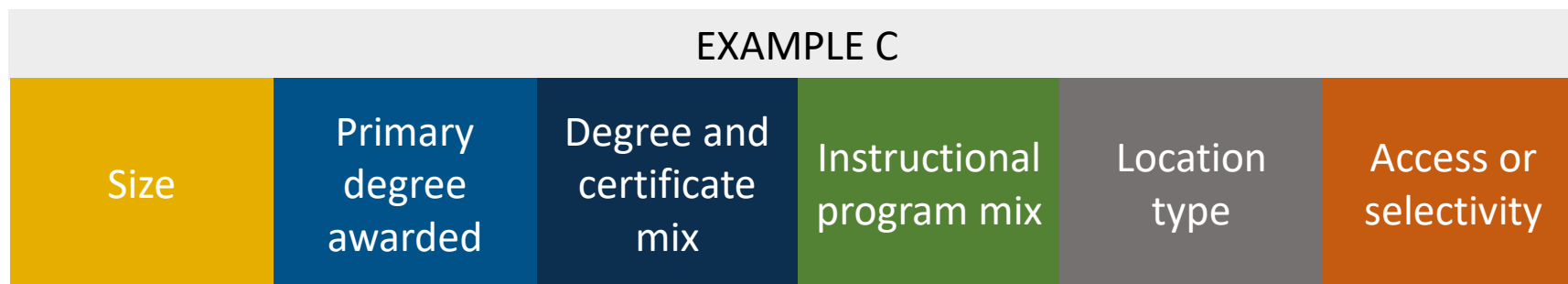
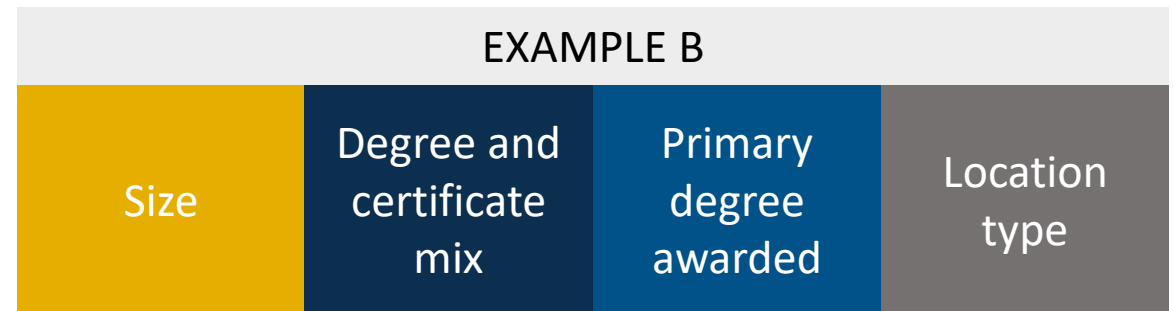
Baccalaureate Colleges: Diverse Fields

Baccalaureate/Associate's Colleges: Mixed
Baccalaureate/Associate's Colleges

Regional Colleges

Baccalaureate/Associate's Colleges: Associate's Dominant

POTENTIAL MULTI-DIMENSIONAL CLASSIFICATION FOR THE NEW BASIC*



POTENTIAL EXAMPLE: KLAMATH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

2021 Basic classification:
Associate's Colleges: High
Transfer-High Nontraditional

PRIMARY CREDENTIAL AWARDED

Certificate

PROGRAM MIX

28 programs
Professions-focused

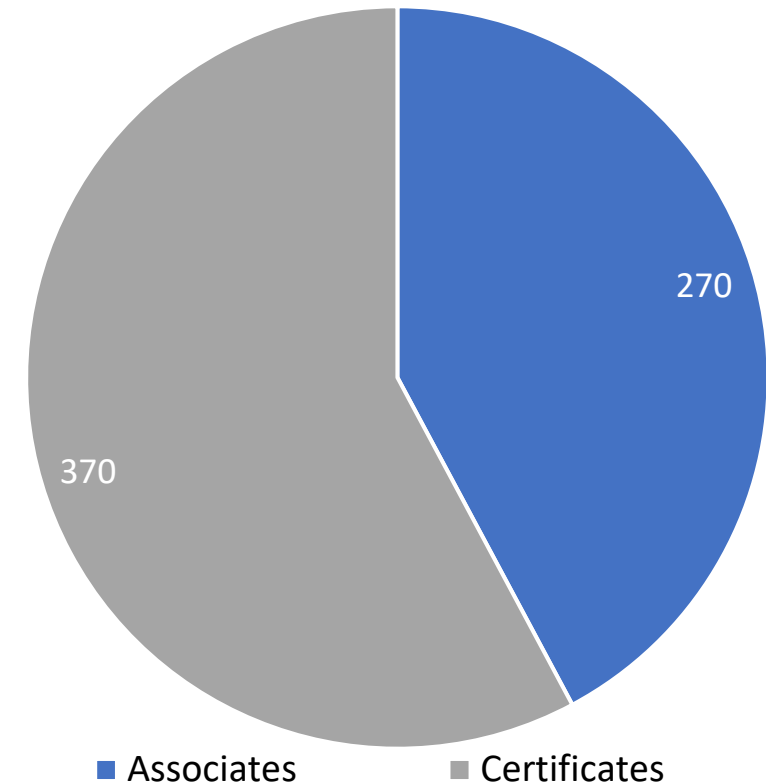
SIZE

Small (2,541 students
2021 12-month headcount)

BIGGEST PROGRAMS

- Liberal A&S, General Studies and Humanities
- Homeland Security, Law Enforcement
- Web and Digital/Multimedia
- Education

DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE PROFILE (# DEGREES OR CERTIFICATES AWARDED)



POTENTIAL EXAMPLE: NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

2021 Basic classification:
Doctoral Universities: High
Research Activity

PRIMARY CREDENTIAL AWARDED

Bachelor's Degree

PROGRAM MIX

147 programs
General studies/comprehensive

SIZE

Large (29,566 students fall 2020)

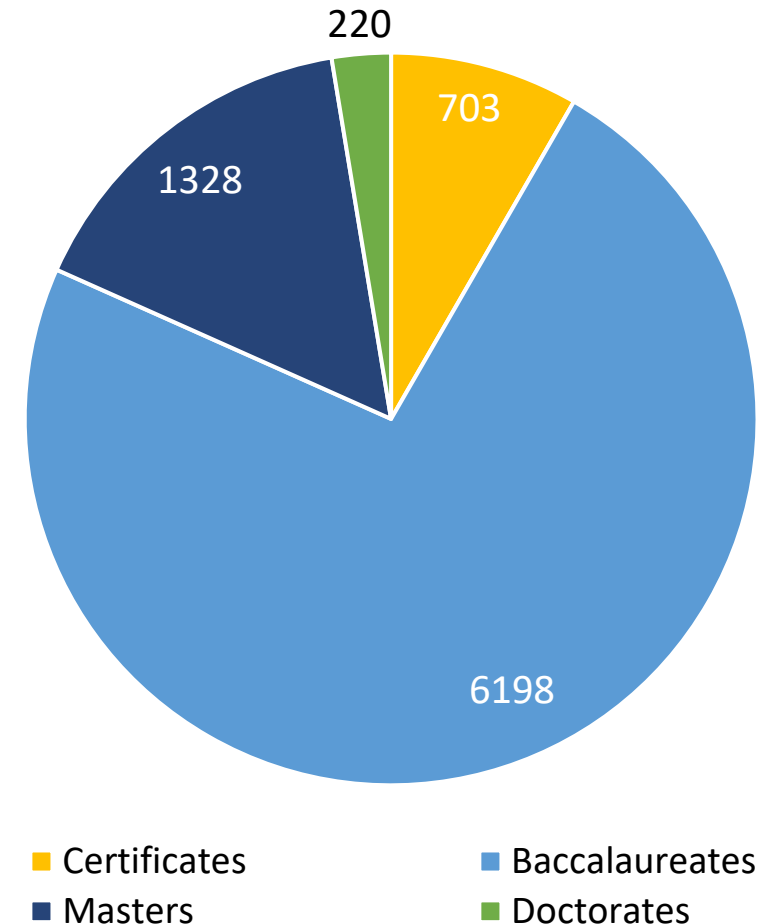
RESEARCH ACTIVITY

\$69.129 million in R&D spending
77 research doctorates

BIGGEST PROGRAMS

- Registered nursing
- Liberal A&S
- Psychology
- Business administration

DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE PROFILE (# DEGREES OR CERTIFICATES AWARDED)



POTENTIAL EXAMPLE: UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO

2021 Basic classification:
Doctoral Universities: High
Research Activity

PRIMARY CREDENTIAL AWARDED

Bachelor's Degree

PROGRAM MIX

76 programs
Professions-focused

SIZE

Medium (8,861 students fall 2020)

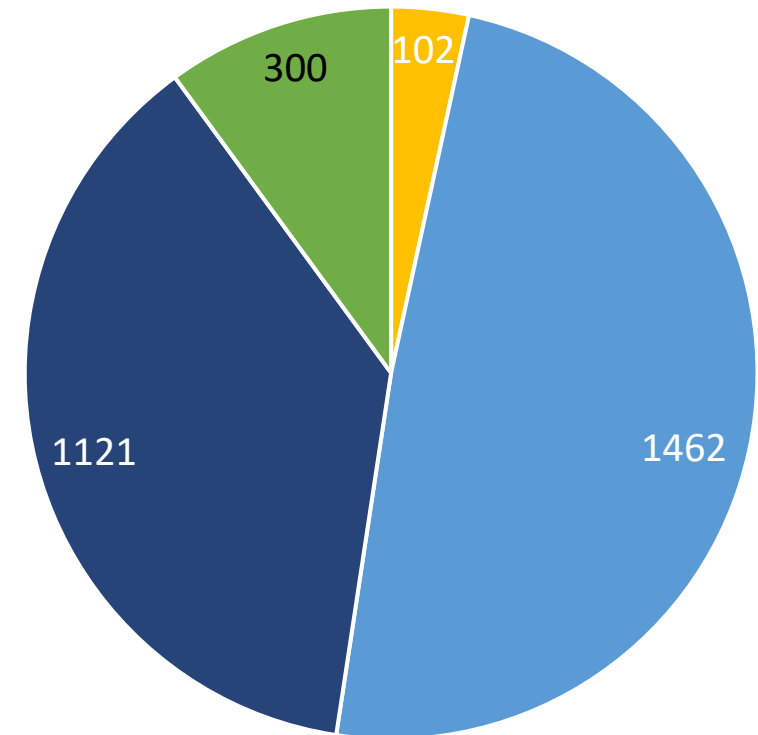
RESEARCH ACTIVITY

\$7.580 million in R&D spending
28 research doctorates

DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE PROFILE (# DEGREES OR CERTIFICATES AWARDED)

BIGGEST PROGRAMS

- Law
- Finance
- Criminal justice
- Business administration



■ Certificates
■ Masters

■ Baccalaureates
■ Doctorates

“BRIEF” VERSION OF THE 2021 METHODOLOGY

1a. Calculate the aggregate index score:

- Rank each of the 7 measures individually in ascending order, where low = 1
- For each of the 7 measures, multiply the rank by the appropriate PCA coefficient (right) to create a weighted rank
- Sum the weighted ranks to create a single number for each institution
- Create a version of the index that starts at zero (subtract the minimum value from each score)

1b. Calculate the per capita index score:

- Rank each of the 3 measures individually in ascending order, where low = 1
- For each of the 3 measures, multiply the rank by the appropriate PCA coefficient (right) to create a weighted rank
- Sum the weighted ranks to create a single number for each institution
- Create a version of the index that starts at zero (subtract the minimum value from each score so the resulting minimum value is 0)

2. Calculate distance to origin for each index pair

3. Convert to standardized form (subtract overall mean and divide by population standard deviation) **and rank from highest to lowest**

4. Determine cutoff: Largest “gap” between points below median

Aggregate analysis (first principal component explained 70% of the total variance)

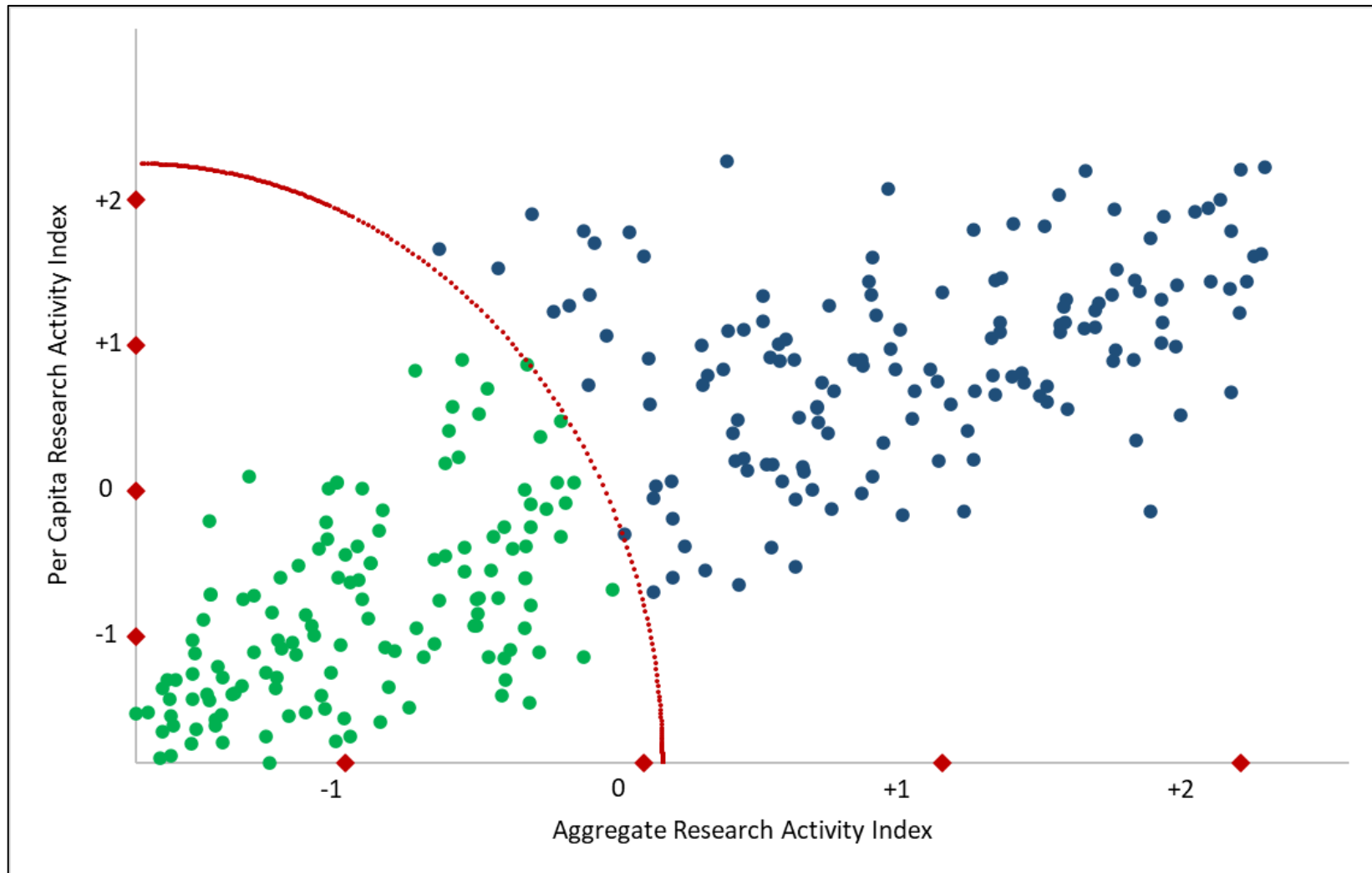
S&E R&D Expenditures	0.905
Non-S&E R&D Expenditures	0.809
S&E Research Staff	0.913
Doctorates: Social Sciences	0.880
Doctorates: Humanities	0.846
Doctorates: STEM	0.920
Doctorates: Other Fields	0.597

Per-capita analysis (first principal component explained 71% of the total variance)

Per-capita S&E R&D Expenditures	0.931
Per-capita Non-S&E R&D Expenditures	0.643
Per-capita S&E Research Staff	0.939

THE RESEARCH ACTIVITY INDEX RESULTS IN A RELATIVE RANKING,
WITH ROUGHLY HALF OF THE INSTITUTIONS IN R1 AND HALF IN R2

THIS CREATES A NORMATIVE DISTRIBUTION, WITH NO CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN R1 & R2



COMPREHENSIVENESS IS ESSENTIALLY REQUIRED TO BE R1

Some of the institutions just over the line into very high research activity (R1)

	S&E R&D	Non S&E R&D	Total R&D	S&E Staff	Social science doc	Humanities doc	STEM doc	Other doc	Total research docs	per capita S&E	per capita nonS&E	per capita S&E staff
Institution 1	\$22,612,000	\$18,737,000	\$41,349,000	71	13	22	34	64	133	37.686	31.228	0.118
Institution 2	\$33,929,000	\$16,378,000	\$50,307,000	20	24	19	49	73	165	42.785	20.653	0.025
Institution 3	\$79,669,000	\$4,198,000	\$83,867,000	185	9	7	57	14	87	183.569	9.673	0.426
Institution 4	\$31,313,000	\$8,452,000	\$39,765,000	56	17	23	46	72	158	37.366	10.086	0.067
Institution 5	\$42,369,000	\$9,545,000	\$51,914,000	63	6	21	57	44	128	61.762	13.914	0.092
Mean of the 5	\$37,460,000	\$11,462,000	\$53,440,000	79	14	18	49	53	134	72.63	17.11	0.15
Median of the 5	\$33,929,000	\$9,545,000	\$50,307,000	63	12	21	49	64	133	42.79	13.91	0.09

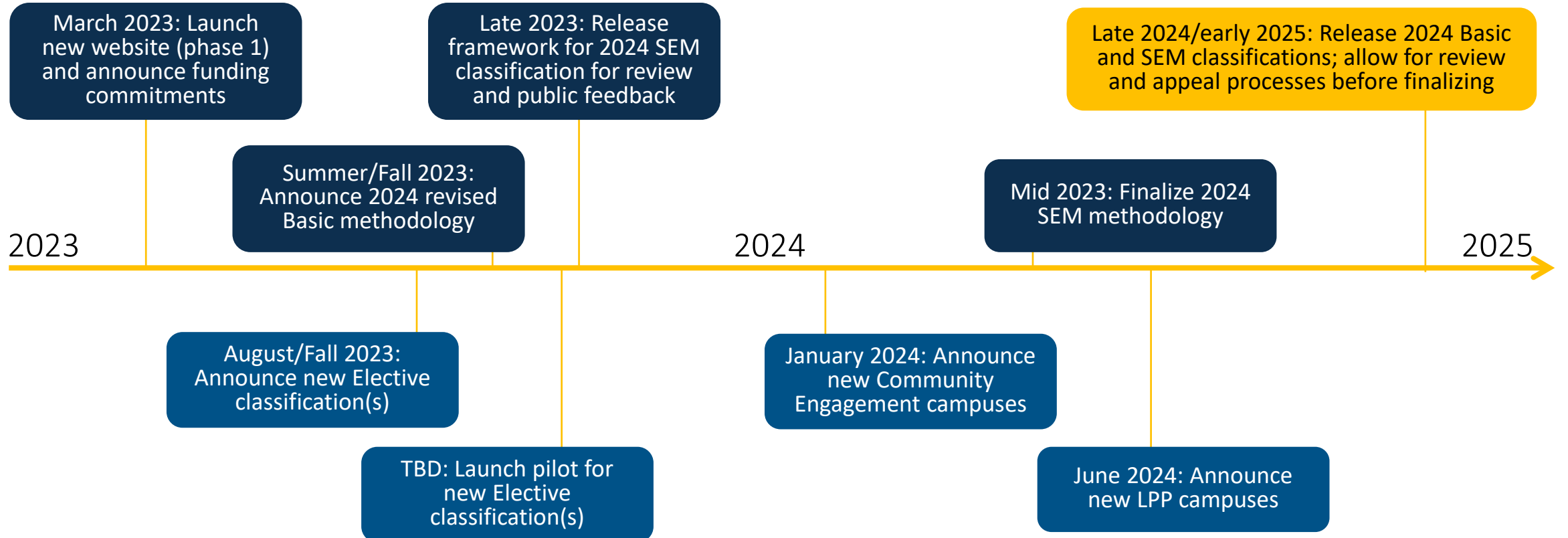
Some of the institutions just under the line in high research activity (R2)

	S&E R&D	Non S&E R&D	Total R&D	S&E Staff	Social science doc	Humanities doc	STEM doc	Other doc	Total research docs	per capita S&E	per capita nonS&E	per capita S&E staff
Institution A	\$178,828,000	\$12,319,000	\$191,147,000	76	7	0	33	11	51	312.636	21.537	0.133
Institution B	\$102,047,000	\$9,616,000	\$111,663,000	67	3	4	36	34	77	196.622	18.528	0.129
Institution C	\$109,184,000	\$3,626,000	\$112,810,000	103	2	0	41	10	53	235.310	7.814	0.221
Institution D	\$85,346,000	\$6,870,000	\$92,216,000	58	1	0	75	59	135	186.752	15.032	0.126
Institution E	\$102,059,000	\$7,908,000	\$109,967,000	55	1	8	55	29	93	166.491	12.900	0.089
Mean of the 5	\$115,493,000	\$8,068,000	\$123,560,000	72	3	2	48	29	82	219.56	15.16	0.14
Median of the 5	\$102,059,000	\$7,908,000	\$111,663,000	67	2	0	41	29	77	196.62	15.03	0.13

HOW WE ARE MOVING FORWARD

- Revise the Basic classification methodology to better organize institutions based on the credentials they award
- Design a Social and Economic Mobility classification that groups institutions by the types of students they serve and examines outcomes
- Address issues with R1 and R2 methodology and classification
- Expand the suite of Elective classifications to further the public purpose of higher education

HOW WE ARE MOVING FORWARD



QUESTIONS

If you have feedback to share, please reach out to Carnegie@acenet.edu