AAU STATEMENT ON ADMINISTRATION’S HIGHER EDUCATION INITIATIVE

Following is a statement by Hunter Rawlings, President of the Association of American Universities, on the Obama Administration’s recently announced initiative on college costs, access, and completion.

We applaud the President for outlining a plan to address college affordability at a time when Americans are concerned about the cost of a high-quality college education. We welcome a conversation about how we can enhance college access and promote college completion while protecting the integrity of federal student aid funding and encouraging states to reinvest in public higher education. New funding criteria should not inadvertently provide incentives to lower quality or jeopardize funding for low-income students. We also caution against using inappropriate measures, such as average earnings, as a proxy for quality. We look forward to a dialogue about next steps.

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The Association of American Universities is a nonprofit association of 60 U.S. and two Canadian preeminent public and private research universities. Founded in 1900, AAU focuses on national and institutional issues that are important to research-intensive universities, including funding for research, research and education policy, and graduate and undergraduate education.

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