Founded in 1900, the Association of American Universities is composed of America’s leading research universities. AAU’s 62 research universities transform lives through education, research, and innovation. Our member universities earn the majority of competitively awarded federal funding for research that improves public health, seeks to address national challenges, and contributes significantly to our economic strength, while educating and training tomorrow’s visionary leaders and innovators.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

AAU universities make up only 2% of all 4-year universities in the U.S., yet award nearly 42% of all research doctorate degrees.***

- 5,006 Patents in 2017
- 4,022 Technology license agreements in 2017
- 3,674 Total operational startups in 2017
- 60 Current Fortune 100 CEOs*

VALUE

- 83% of students graduate within 6 years**
- 50% AAU students who graduate debt-free

EDUCATION 2015 Data

- 98% of all doctoral degrees in Arts, Humanities, and Music
- 51% of all doctoral degrees in STEM and Social Sciences
- 21% of all undergraduate degrees in STEM and Social Sciences

RESEARCH

$24.3 BILLION Federal research dollars awarded in 2017

- 2% AAU member universities
- 42% Research doctorates awarded by AAU member universities
- 58% Non-AAU member universities

*CEOs who attended an AAU university as of 2018.
**2017 graduation rate at AAU universities.
***Non-professional doctorate degrees.