

# BECAUSE PLACE MATTERS

WE ARE CUMU.



# CUMU MEMBERSHIP

The Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities empowers member institutions to advance social and economic mobility, regional economic impact, and community well-being through place-based strategies and collaborative initiatives. CUMU connects campuses to share best practices, foster partnerships, and amplify their impact.

## ONE MEMBERSHIP FOR YOUR ENTIRE CAMPUS

We welcome executives, administrators, faculty, and staff from across all functional areas, levels of responsibility, and disciplines to be an active part of our growing coalition.

Your annual dues of \$3,900 cover everyone.

## ABOUT OUR COALITION

We are a coalition of 120+ domestic and international institutions representing the breadth and depth of higher education.

We are small enough for you to make meaningful connections across the field, and large enough to find inspiration from those in similar *and* different contexts.

## OUR NETWORK IS OUR STRENGTH

We learn more from each other because of our geographic and institutional diversity.

66%

Public Institutions

31%

Minority Serving Institutions

11%

Religiously Affiliated

29%

R1 Institutions

25%

R2 Institutions

58+

Metro areas represented in the US, South Africa, and UK.

Full-time Enrollment of CUMU Members

1,400 to 74,000

"The connections forged and insights gained through our CUMU membership deliver a tangible return on investment, enhancing our institution's ability to serve our students and community."

**Loren Blanchard**

CUMU Board Member  
President, University of  
Houston-Downtown

# 2025 CUMU PROGRAMMING

**Our year-round programming and annual conference** provide opportunities for leaders from member campuses to connect as they learn and share practices for enabling sustainable change driven by students, faculty, staff, and partners across the community. We welcome participation from across all functional areas, levels of responsibility, and disciplines.

## Connect. Learn. Collaborate.

### ANCHOR LEARNING NETWORK

ALN is a cohort-based learning community for those seeking to advance the anchor mission.

Participants in this selective program engage in structured virtual professional development, and an in-person cohort meeting at the CUMU Conference.

### HUDDLES

These informal, online learning communities connect people around shared challenges and common goals.

This year we focus on:

- Community-engaged Research
- Latine Students
- Strategic Communications
- Sustainability and the Anchor Mission

### VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

Our webinars, workshops, and community conversations bring together administrators, faculty, staff, students, and community partners.

Our members learn from one another and share challenges and successes on issues relevant to urban and metropolitan campuses.

### RESEARCH INITIATIVES

CUMU supports and highlights research that provides campuses with data-informed strategies.

- Annual research fellowships
- Research reports
- *Metropolitan Universities Journal Dialogue Series* connects authors with members to explore scholarship and establish new lines of inquiry.

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**OCTOBER 26–29, 2025**  
**BALTIMORE, MD**

The CUMU Conference is the largest nationwide meeting of leaders from urban campuses. Working with local campus partners, we ground the program in the host community and focus on issues with national and international relevance. Attendees share and learn from colleagues across varied levels of responsibility, disciplines, campus units, and cross-sector partnerships.

The Conference offers networking and programming opportunities specifically for CUMU presidents and chancellors, such as the Presidents' Dinner and Presidents' Council meeting.

**NOVEMBER 8-11, 2026**  
**HOUSTON, TX**

**BARBARA A. HOLLAND**  
**SCHOLAR-ADMINISTRATOR**  
**AWARD**

The Barbara A. Holland Scholar-Administrator Award honors a bold, mid-career scholar-administrator whose leadership and intellectual voice illuminate the transformative power of urban and metropolitan higher education.

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**CUMU was founded over 35 years ago by presidents and chancellors** who were brought together by the unique opportunities and challenges that urban and metropolitan areas present.

Board members represent campuses leading the way in championing student success and enhancing regional well-being.

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Our presidents and chancellors are active in the full-schedule of engaging sessions, plenaries, and networking events as attendees and presenters. **We also invite them to participate in exclusive events** including the Presidents' Dinner and the Presidents' Council.

## EXECUTIVE COACHING

Offered by respected national leaders and former presidents, CUMU executive coaching provides up to three free coaching sessions to presidents, chancellors, and members of their senior leadership teams. All sessions are confidential.

Interested in connecting with a colleague, learning more about coaching sessions, or just have questions?  
Email Valerie Holton, CEO, at [vholtan@cumuonline.org](mailto:vholtan@cumuonline.org)

**"We're proud to be a part of CUMU, an organization that understands the unique challenges and opportunities universities like ours face."**

### Ellen Neufeldt

CUMU Board Vice Chair & Treasurer  
President, California State University,  
San Marcos

# METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITIES

Peer-reviewed Open Access Journal

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*Metropolitan Universities journal (MUJ)* is a peer-reviewed, open access journal. The journal disseminates scholarship and research relevant to urban and metropolitan campuses. Authors with diverse institutional and professional perspectives present research on the best practices and applications of theory. Readership includes campus and community leaders working to strengthen their efforts in order to better address issues of common concern.

## CALLS FOR PAPERS

The journal accepts manuscripts on an ongoing basis for themed and non-themed issues exploring campus and community relationships.

### THE JOURNAL'S SCOPE INCLUDES:

- Student success initiatives, practices, and policies
- Urban campus roles in addressing disparities
- Innovations in faculty recruitment, retention, and governance
- Impacts of cross-sector partnerships
- Impact measurement related to students, faculty, and community
- Data collection and use to inform policy and practice
- Innovations in curriculum design and delivery
- Emerging local, regional, and national policy issues



Metropolitan Universities is published by the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities. CUMU appreciates Indiana University Library for hosting this open-access journal.

**Learn more & view issues at [CUMUonline.org/MUJ](https://CUMUonline.org/MUJ)**

The need for higher education to illustrate its relevancy and help enact positive results for people and our communities is increasingly imperative. An essential partner in our efforts to amplify our impact nationally is the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities.

**Kristin Sobolik**

CUMU Board Chair

Chancellor, University of Missouri-St. Louis

## Connect with Us. **Find Your People.**



[cumuonline.org](http://cumuonline.org)



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