

WHO ARE THE INNOVATORS MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

A feature series from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation envisions a U.S. higher education system that propels social mobility and economic development. Who is challenging, pioneering and developing to bridge the social and economic gaps in higher education?

NEW THINKING & NEW VOICES

Making a Difference will tell the stories of individuals or teams from nonprofits and academia who are bringing new thinking and promising efforts to bridging access and success gaps in higher education.

Elevating the personal stories of these individuals or teams – especially those whose work is not as well known – will provide new insights and ideas needed to better serve today's college students.



The Impact Areas:

Making a Difference will showcase new voices in higher education who focus on:



TRANSFORMING Institutions

A small but growing number of colleges and universities are making fundamental changes in their academic and administrative structures to place more of an emphasis on broadening student access and success.



REDESIGNING The Student Experience

Today's college students bring a wide range of educational and life experiences to their studies, and institutions are increasingly grappling with how to meet their needs through efforts such as improving advising and redesigning remedial education.



TAPPING The Power of Technology

Digital and online learning have become more of a mainstay in higher education, with more than one-third of students taking at least one online course and a growing number of campuses going completely online.



CREATING New Knowledge

Higher education conducts a lot of research, but surprisingly little of it deals with its own development and efficacy.



ADVANCING Student-Centered Policy:

Over the past several years, the focus of federal and state higher education policy has expanded from promoting access to embracing persistence and completion as well.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

FAQ

Is this an award?

No. We're looking for work that reflects innovative thinking designed to improve outcomes for today's college students – especially low-income and first-generation students, students of color, and working adults. The focus of their work improves higher education for historically underserved populations or reflects innovative thinking to promote student success in higher education.

Are nominations limited to the United States?

Yes. Nominees must be individuals (or a team of individuals) employed by or affiliated with degree-granting colleges and universities or non-profit organizations focusing fully or partially on education after high school in the United States and its territories.

Can I submit multiple nominations?

Yes.

Can I nominate someone for multiple categories?

Nominate them for the category that best suits them. The editorial team may assign a nominee to a different category.

Can I nominate myself?

Yes, eligible individuals or teams may nominate themselves.

How do I make a nomination?

Submit a nomination via MakingADifference4HigherEd.org or via email to PostsecondarySuccessInfo@gatesfoundation.org.



Other questions?

For additional questions, email PostsecondarySuccessInfo@gatesfoundation.org.



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