Seven Ways to Create a More Equitable Higher Education System

As institutions work to adapt to evolving demographics, student needs, and changing social contexts, a student-equity-centric approach is critical to ensuring that students' voices and experiences more fully inform decision-making on the future of higher education.

The MAPS Student Coalition for Higher Education recently published a guidebook, Catalyzing Student Equity in Higher Education, to elevate effective and innovative strategies institutional leaders and decision-makers should consider when centering equitable outcomes for students.

The guidebook presents a number of case studies across a variety of critical themes when reorienting programs, services, and structures with student-equity-centricity in mind:

01 Dedicate sufficient and appropriate resources.

02 Create and implement a plan for measuring the program's impact and establishing its importance.

03 Ensure the program’s practices value, compensate, and empower students as equal stakeholders.

04 Actively seek out and utilize knowledge from others; institutional leaders and decision makers should be open to sharing their own knowledge with students.

05 Cultivate strong professional relationships between students and administrators.

06 Transfer leadership and ownership opportunities to students.

07 Facilitate professional, academic, and interpersonal community-building among students.

The MAPS Project gives higher education leaders actionable insights and tools to help build a more equitable future for historically marginalized students.