



THE AICUP SPOTLIGHT

Monthly Newsletter

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January 2025 - Volume 15, Issue 1

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Latest from AICUP

From the Communications Desk at AICUP

President Tom Foley wrote a AICUP New Year's oped again this year—outlining three ways that independent nonprofit schools help PA. AICUP Communications manager Tony Gilbert helped place it in 14 newspapers in 5 of the 8 regions where AICUP schools are located, as well as on a number of social media sites. [Here](#) is last year's op-ed, *Don't Be Fooled: PA Colleges Still Offer Transformative Value*, and [here](#) is the January 2025 piece, *Bet on PA in 2025*.

Tom also authored a piece in early December that played off the pre-holiday “[consumer alert](#)” theme—also promoting independent higher education in PA.

Rental of Office Space at AICUP Headquarters

AICUP is seeking a tenant or tenants(s) for 3 offices at 101 North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA (the James McCormick Mansion/home to AICUP). These three (3) offices are on the 2nd floor (by walkup) and contain roughly 1,000 square feet and one private bathroom.

AICUP would be very interested in securing a tenant that is a member college, but any interest from a current Corporate Affiliate or Endorsed Program Provider would also be welcomed. For more information about this space and/or to schedule a visit, please contact [Tim Alexander](#) or 717-418-9670. The McCormick Mansion is not ADA compliant.

Add AICUP to Email Safe Sender List

AICUP asks that you make sure AICUP is on your college or university's email safe sender list. This will ensure that important AICUP communications arrive in your email inbox.

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AICUP Campus Leaders Webinar Series

Winter/Spring 2025

The sessions at the **Campus Leaders Forum** last November were timely and so well-done it was decided to have a webinar series over the next several months to share with the entire AICUP community. Details for the first three webinars are:

Trends in College & University Closures

Thursday, January 23rd

1:00 - 2:00 PM

[Register](#)

Monetizing Legacy IP Addresses

Tuesday, January 28th

1:00 - 2:00 PM

[Register](#)

Why are Employees Requesting Long Term Care Coverage as a Benefit?

Tuesday, February 4th

10:00 - 11:00 AM

[Register](#)

For more information contact [Kelly Carli](#)

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E2 Energy to Education Winners

~Constellation

Constellation, the nation's largest producer of clean, emissions-free energy, awarded \$500,000 in Energy to Educate (E2) grants for hands-on STEM- and energy-related projects reaching nearly 12,000 students from middle school to college. The grant program supports the company's focus on advancing workforce development and energy education by encouraging young people from diverse backgrounds to explore clean energy careers and join the fight against the climate crisis.

After a rigorous review process, Constellation selected 20 projects from eight states that specifically align with the innovation themes of Access in Energy, Sustainability

Amidst Growing Energy Needs and Nuclear Technology & Clean Energy. Winning projects include a hydrogen fuel cell training program, mobile STEM labs, wind and solar energy design build competitions and initiatives focused on preparing youth for careers in STEM.

Two AICUP Member Schools received grants:

Saint Joseph's University - Physics Wonder Girls Program at Saint Joseph's University

The Physics Wonder Girls Program at Saint Joseph's University focuses on equity and renewable energy education for middle and high school girls from diverse backgrounds. The summer camp component offers hands-on energy experiments, such as building solar-powered devices and wind turbines, and includes tours of research labs and industrial plants.

Throughout the academic year, the program supports the "Introduction to Renewable Energy" course for college students, combining themes of renewable energy and equity. The program has a strong emphasis on mentoring, with undergraduate STEM students and faculty guiding the participants. The initiative aims to inspire young women to pursue careers in STEM and energy science, providing them with leadership opportunities and exposure to real-world applications of physics and renewable energy

York College - The EmpowerHer Girls STEM Workshop project aims to address the gender gap in STEM fields by engaging middle and high school girls in hands-on learning experiences. The workshop targets rising 7th to 10th graders and aims to create a supportive and interactive environment where participants can explore various STEM fields, including chemistry, biology, mathematics, robotics, and engineering.

The primary objective is to spark curiosity and build STEM skills, empowering girls to see STEM as a viable and exciting career path. The program includes five annual summer workshops over the next five years, featuring activities such as building robots, conducting experiments, and learning about renewable energy systems. Female STEM professionals will serve as mentors, providing guidance and acting as role models. At the end of the workshop, participants will receive take-home STEM kits to continue exploring STEM subjects independently.

Visit the [E2 program page](#) for the complete list of this year's grant recipients.

[Constellation](#) is the endorsed program provider of the Energy Management & Procurement Program. By participating in the program, AICUP members can be assured of getting excellent rates, stability over a longer term, and many other value-added products (e.g. Green Power). Member colleges are priced individually to assure that one does not subsidize another.

[View Quick Glimpse into Latest Energy Headlines](#)

Contact: Blaire Miller at blaire.miller@constellation.com or 443-610-6259

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Title IX: Tennessee vs. Cardona Decision

~D. Stafford & Associates (DSA)

Earlier this month, a federal district court in Kentucky issued a ruling in Tennessee vs. Cardona, one of the several lawsuits against the 2024 Title IX Regulations (“2024 rule”). This lawsuit was filed in the 6th Circuit by five plaintiff states. If you recall, a preliminary injunction was issued, which halted schools in these states from adopting the 2024 rule. DSA expected a court would hear the matter and either make the temporary injunction permanent (or not), but instead, the court ordered the new 2024 rule vacated.

What does this mean with regard to Title IX?

Right now, it appears schools should exclusively use their 2020 Title IX policies and procedures for any new reports they receive, regardless of when the conduct reportedly occurred. In other words, institutions should use the policies and procedures developed to comply with the 2020 Title IX Regulations (“2020 rule”).

However, DSA has a pending inquiry with the U.S. Department of Education’s (ED) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) regarding:

- whether these changes should be implemented immediately,
- what institutions should do with complaints institutions are actively investigating and resolving under the policies and procedures developed to comply with the 2024 rule, and
- what will happen (if anything) with the complaints already resolved under the policies and procedures developed to comply with the 2024 rule.

DSA will share OCR’s response when, and if, we obtain one.

Of course, when reverting back to exclusive use of the Title IX policies and procedures developed to comply with the 2020 rule, your institution should be attuned to any state laws that may establish additional obligations beyond those contained in the 2020 rule. Some jurisdictions passed state laws following enactment of the 2020 rule that created additional substantive and procedural requirements that exceeded requirements established in the 2020 rule.

In the interim, DSA advises schools to speak to their General Counsel’s Office to ask what they would like you to do with any pending complaints (i.e., whether you

should continue to resolve those complaints using the procedures that were in place prior to yesterday's ruling, or, if you should reissue notice to the parties and proceed in accordance with the 2020 rule),

Additionally, now is the time to ensure the policies and procedures you developed to comply with the 2020 rule fully comply with that rule. Many of you already have taken steps to ensure the policies and procedures required under the 2020 rule are compliant at your institution, as these policies and procedures were either:

- the only Title IX policies and procedures your institution utilized (if your institution was subject to an injunction prohibiting your institution from implementing the 2024 rule), or
- these procedures *were still applicable* to institutions that were subject to the 2024 rule because the 2024 rule required institutions to utilize the policies and procedures developed to comply with the 2020 rule to resolve complaints that occurred prior to August 1, 2024.

As your institution looks to update its policies and procedures to align with the 2020 rule (and remove any provisions that pertained to the 2024 rule), don't forget to modify other institutional policies, procedures, and codes, where necessary, since there were many incidents of "non-Title IX" harassment that may have reported to your institution that did not fall under the jurisdiction of the 2020 rule.

Furthermore, remember the procedures for institutional disciplinary action that your institution follows in cases of alleged dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking ("VAWA offenses") must adhere to the requirements of the Clery Act set forth by [34 CFR 668.46\(k\)](#) *regardless of whether Title IX applies*.

D. Stafford & Associates (DSA) is the endorsed program provider for AICUP's ***Title IX Coordinator/Investigator Training***. DSA offers a series of intensive training classes for Title IX coordinators and for investigators who are responsible for conducting and overseeing Title IX compliance and sexual misconduct investigations on campus.

Beyond that, DSA also offers services to review policies and procedures.

Contact: Dolores Stafford, dolores@dstaffordandassociates.com or 302-344-5809

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Leveraging AI Models in Education:
~JourneyEd

Get Your Free Copy Now!

Leveraging AI Models in Education: A Comparative Analysis of ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot, & Google Gemini

Unlock the potential of AI in your educational institution. Equip your school with the knowledge to make informed decisions and transform the way you teach and learn.



ChatGPT



Copilot

Gemini

Download Now

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[JourneyEd](#) provides AICUP members with contractual pricing for commonly used software products from vendors such as Microsoft, Adobe, and VMWare.

Contact: Jason Watson at jwatson@journeyed.com or 800-876-3507, ext.7111

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PAICU MEP Zoom Meetings on Tuesdays

The leverage of the PAICU MEP is building in Pennsylvania and it is driving plan expenses downward. The employees in this plan are the immediate and direct beneficiaries as are the campuses that choose to join. Learn more about this program during one of Tim Alexander's regular Tuesday Zoom meetings at 2:30 PM each week. So please take another close look at this program, which is run by AICUP members for AICUP members.

Zoom Meeting Every Week -- PAICU MEP Multiple Employer Retirement Plan

Learn More at AICUP Member Zoom-Ins

Tuesdays, 2:30 to 3:30 PM**

[Join Here](#)

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Baker Tilly

Higher Ed Internal Audit:

Going Back-to-Basics for Effective Risk Management & Compliance

Higher education institutions face a wide range of risks that demand proactive assessment and strategic action. To support institutions in mitigating these challenges, Baker Tilly's higher education risk advisory specialists have developed a concise and impactful video series.

This eight-part "Back to Basics" series highlights key risk areas crucial to the higher education industry, providing actionable insights and strategies to help you assess and manage risks effectively. Each topic was carefully chosen based on recent audits and client inquiries, ensuring relevance to today's most pressing campus concerns.

Strengthen your institution's approach to risk management.

[Watch Series](#)

Explore the videos

- Episode 1: [Procurement risks and controls](#)
Episode 2: [Student accounts and financial aid](#)
Episode 3: [Gifts and advancement](#)
Episode 4: [Data analytics: questions, challenges and the analysis process](#)
Episode 5: [Navigating human resources and payroll compliance](#)
Episode 6: [Cybersecurity and IT risks](#)
Episode 7: [Construction risk management](#)
Episode 8: [Federally sponsored agreements](#)

Baker Tilly: is a national full-service advisory and accounting firm, providing assurance, tax, internal audit and consulting services to colleges and universities and collaboratively addressing areas such as risk management, research and institutional compliance, fiscal resiliency, data analytics, cybersecurity, talent management, cost reduction, fraud, construction and other strategic and operational issues.

Contact: David Capitano, dave.capitano@bakertilly.com or 610-927-4512

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Forvis Mazars

Higher Ed R3 Summit - Philadelphia

Monday, March 3

9 AM–3:30 PM

CPE Credit: Up to 5 (pending approval)

[Register](#)

University of Pennsylvania – The Inn at Penn

3600 Sansom St

Philadelphia, PA 19104

Higher education institutions face unique financial, regulatory, and risk issues. [Join us for our interactive, CPE-eligible event](#), where we offer education and ideas for bolstering your institution's financial health. We will also describe key trends emerging in higher education and their implications. Sign up today to save your spot!

[Forvis Mazars](#) (formally BKD/FORVIS) Higher Education practice serves the various needs of 300+ public and private colleges and universities throughout the

U.S. and is driven by our commitment to forward vision. As a top accounting and consulting firm, Forvis Mazars is committed to providing an **Unmatched Client Experience®**. We listen to understand, respond promptly, and consult with purpose.

Our services have been intentionally designed to deliver impact and help you drive forward with momentum. Our talented team has the skills, passion, and industry intelligence to help you accelerate your path to the future. In addition to tax, audit, and consulting services, our dedicated professionals can help your institution demonstrate fiscal responsibility, foresight, and accountability.

We have extensive knowledge of the education system and employ powerful tools, data, and analytics to help you achieve your school's mission and goals, including academic program and portfolio reviews, compensation studies, benchmarking, strategic planning, and change management.

Contact: Adam Smith, adam.smith@us.forvismazars.com or 260-460-4047

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Jenzabar

EDUCAUSE's Top Ten Issues of 2025

Institutions have access to huge volumes of student, staff, operational, and financial data. Effectively converting this often convoluted, siloed, and complex data into actionable intelligence to enable informed decision-making, however, requires the right solution and strategy. How should institutions proceed amid a market of competing technologies and changing institutional objectives?

In this EDUCAUSE exclusive report, Chris Morgan, Associate Vice President of Innovation at Jenzabar, dives into a few of EDUCAUSE's Top 10 issues of 2025, including how colleges and universities can become data-empowered institutions as well as which technologies can facilitate more streamlined, efficient operations across campus.

[Download Report](#)

Jenzabar Inc: Unlock the next wave of higher education software with Jenzabar One, a flexible, unified-cloud ready platform, exclusive to higher education.

Contact: Nicole Stewart, Nicole.Stewart@jenzabar.com or 908-216-0453

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Synario

Aligning Financial Models & Retention Strategies

Student success metrics like retention seem to be on everyone's mind. A good retention strategy can support sustainability and help achieve mission-based goals like supporting students and improving the campus community. How can you marry your retention efforts and your financial modeling? Well we've got some ideas for you this month!

[Read More](#)

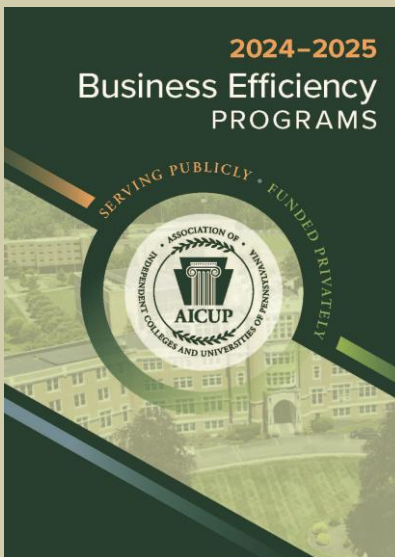
Synario: (in partnership with PFM Solutions) is an agile financial modeling platform offering advanced control over your financial projections. Model each business dimension, perform scenario and stress analyses, and dynamically present your findings all from one cloud-enabled platform.

Contact: : **Marc Pitcher**, PitcherM@synario.com or 215-557-1267

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The New AICUP Efficiency Programs Manual is Here!



Every year AICUP delivers an annual report on AICUP's collaborative and business efficiency programs through the [Business Efficiency Programs Manual](#) publication. Within this report we share the success of these efforts and the measurable value offered by each. This report does not attempt to calculate savings or increased revenue from AICUP's advocacy before state and federal governments.

The [Business Efficiency Program Manual](#) outlines: 1) the range of business efficiency and research programs that AICUP sponsors for members; 2) institutional participation rates; and 3) the estimated cost-savings per institution from those programs. It is important to measure these programs over time as part of the normal performance measurement of our AICUP work. Our findings are as follows:

- **39 PROGRAMS** – In 2023, AICUP offered thirty-nine (39) different cost savings programs of which, 29 are vendor-driven and the remaining 10 are driven by AICUP staff activities.
- **\$36.9M ANNUAL SAVINGS** – Thirty-six (36) of these programs leveraged volume and lowered costs in a way that could be documented resulting in \$36.9 million of calculable savings in 2023.
- **28:1 ROI ON FY 2023 DUES** – \$36.9 million of calculable 2023 savings equates to an average savings of \$393,330 per AICUP member or roughly 28 times the average 2023 membership dues (\$13,965).
- **AICUP MEMBER PARTICIPATION** – Seventeen (17) of these programs provided service to 35 or more AICUP members and only four (4) programs had participation of less than 10 AICUP members. All AICUP Members and Associate Members participated in at least one of these 39 programs.
- **SEVEN (7) PROGRAM SAVINGS EXCEEDED FY 2023 DUES** – Seven (7) of these programs each provided annual 2023 savings that

exceeded the total 2023 AICUP membership dues of \$1,242,907. Five of these seven are vendor driven programs including: Aggregate Group Purchasing, Purchasing Card Programs, Accounts Payable Automation, Software Licensing (all software), Cengage Unlimited for Institutions, and Student Health Insurance. Two of these seven programs are managed by AICUP staff as services to the membership: Monthly Presidents' Updates and our Annual Economic Impact Study that will be substantially updated in FY 2025.

It is, of course, not possible to quantify savings on all programs or activities, but our business efficiency team (Tim Alexander and Kelly Carli) once again did their best to quantify dollar-based savings measurement for all but three (3) of these programs. Not all colleges experienced the same level of participation or savings. Hence, the aggregate and average savings figures in this report reflect conservative assumptions.

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**AICUP
Business Efficiency
Programs**

www.aicup.org/Collaboration/BEP

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