

## LEAP Michigan Mission and Vision Statements

### **Mission Statement:**

Michigan LEAP institutions seek to value, support, and instantiate the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) five liberal education principles throughout the higher education curriculum.

They will accomplish this goal through collaborative efforts that maintain institutional autonomy, and will foster a statewide awareness among constituents about the documented value a liberal education provides to all students in higher education. They also strive to share best practices developed by participating institutions to increase the learning and competitiveness of graduates from Michigan public universities.

### **Vision Statement:**

LEAP Michigan aspires to be the primary driving force within the state advocating for a strong liberal education for all students and emphasizing the value-added proposition of the increased learning associated with such an experience.

### **Definition of Liberal Education:**

The Association of American Colleges and Universities has stated the following definition of a liberal education:

An approach to college learning that empowers individuals and prepares them to deal with complexity, diversity, and change. This approach emphasizes broad knowledge of the wider world (e.g., science, culture, and society) as well as in-depth achievement in a specific field of interest. It helps students develop a sense of social responsibility; strong intellectual and practical skills that span all major fields of study, such as communication, analytical, and problem-solving skills; and the demonstrated ability to apply knowledge and skills in real-world settings.

LEAP Michigan has developed the following operational definition of a liberal education to use as we move forward with this initiative.

A Michigan liberal education provides students with broad, transferable skills and competencies using a multidisciplinary approach. This includes exposing students to “real life” experiences both in the classroom and in the community. Students will become effective citizens who are intellectually curious, innovative, able to think critically and analytically, and life-long learners. Students will develop the skills to synthesize and integrate what they learn in a way that will benefit the diverse members of our society.