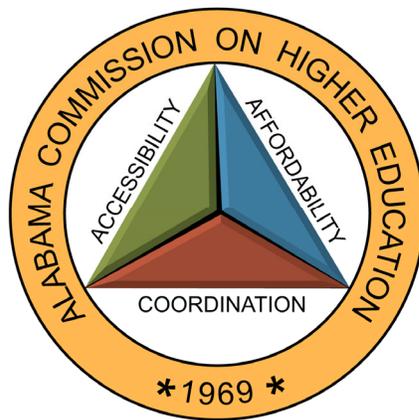


# ALABAMA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION



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100 North Union Street  
Montgomery, AL 36104

Phone: 334-242-2276

[ache.edu](http://ache.edu)

January 2022

## ACHE'S Executive Director



Dr. James E. Purcell

Dr. James E. Purcell was named Executive Director of ACHE in April, 2017. Prior to returning to his home state of Alabama, he served in the cabinet of four governors in Rhode Island, Louisiana and Arkansas as their state's chief higher education officer. The Alabama native holds a B.S. in Public Administration from Auburn University, a M.Ed. in Counseling from the University of Montevallo, and an Ed.D. in Higher Education Administration from the University of Alabama. Dr. Purcell has spent the past thirty years advocating for students and institutions of higher education.

## Responsibilities

- Develop and implement Alabama's statewide strategic plan for postsecondary education
- Prepare budget recommendations for the public community colleges and universities for the governor and the legislature
- Approve new academic programs, and make recommendations about existing programs of study at public community colleges and universities
- Approve new units of instruction and off-campus instruction sites for the public community colleges and universities
- Review the facilities master plans of the public colleges and universities and identify their new construction, deferred maintenance and renovation needs
- Conduct research that informs state policy on postsecondary education, workforce training and their impact on the state **economy**
- Administer state-sponsored financial aid programs for students attending public and private colleges and universities in Alabama
- State coordinator for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)

## Strategic Plan Priorities

**ACHE's Strategic Plan can be found by visiting the QR code below or at:  
[www.ache.edu/ACHE\\_Reports/Reports/State\\_Plan/State\\_plan.pdf](http://www.ache.edu/ACHE_Reports/Reports/State_Plan/State_plan.pdf)**

- Improve Student Access
- Enhance Student Success
- Advance STEM Programs
- Develop Alabama's Economy & Workforce
- Increase Organizational Effectiveness & Efficiency



## Commission Members



Charles Buntin  
Dothan  
Chair  
2nd District



Miranda Bouldin Frost  
Huntsville  
Vice-Chair  
5th District



Norman Crow  
Tuscaloosa  
7th District



Timothy Gyan  
Birmingham  
6th District



Paul W. Kennedy  
Jasper  
4th District



Stan Nelson  
Oxford  
At Large



Amy Shipley Price  
Sylacauga  
3rd District



Stan Pylant  
Huntsville  
At Large



Rod Scott  
Fairfield  
At Large



Jody M. Singleton  
Headland  
At Large



Ann Forbes Sirmon  
Mobile  
1st District



Larry Turner  
Chatom  
At Large

## Statewide Boards & Committees

- Alabama Workforce Development Board
- Alabama 529 Savings Plan CollegeCounts
- Network of Alabama Academic Libraries
- Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research
- Articulation and General Studies Committee /Statewide Transfer and Articulation Reporting System
- Alabama ACT Council
- Alabama Literacy Alliance
- Prepaid Affordable College Tuition
- Alabama Virtual Library
- Governor's Office of Education and Workforce Transformation
- Forever Wild (Alabama's Land Trust Program)

## Administrative & Fiscal Responsibilities

- Network of Alabama Academic Libraries
- Alabama Resource Conservation and Development Council
- Soil and Water Conservation Committee
- Alabama Forestry Foundation Black Belt Initiative
- Civil Air Patrol
- National Computer Forensics Institute
- Black Belt Treasures
- Black Belt Adventures
- Adaptive and Ability Sports Education
- Industry Credential Directory
- USS Alabama Battleship
- Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research
- Alabama Agricultural Land Grant Alliance
- Alabama Trails Foundation
- AGSC/STARS
- Alabama Humanities Foundation
- Alabama Motorsports Hall of Fame
- Alabama Forestry Commission Education Program
- Alabama Recruit and Retain Minority Teachers Pilot Program
- A-KEEP
- Retain Alabama
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities Consortium

## Financial Aid & FAFSA Completion

**ACHE is responsible for the administration of the following state-level student financial aid programs:**

- Alabama Student Assistance Program
- Alabama Student Grant Program
- Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program
- Police Officer's & Firefighter's Survivor's Educational Assistance Program
- Minority Doctoral Scholars Program through SREB
- Alabama Math and Science Teacher Education Program
- Birmingham Promise Scholarship Program
- Additional Information: [ache.edu/StudentAsst.aspx](https://ache.edu/StudentAsst.aspx)

ACHE is also working to improve federal FAFSA completion rates for Alabama high school students.

Visit ACHE's FAFSA portal by visiting this QR code or this link:

<https://fafsa.ache.edu/Data/Summary>



## 2023 Budget Requests

### Overall Budget

- ACHE is requesting an increase of 12.14% over the amount appropriated for FY 2021-22. Including the rollover from FY 2021-22, the increase requested would be 9.57%. ACHE's total FY 2022-23 budget request would be \$52,002,632, of which \$50,819,643 is from state funds.
- This includes a requested increase of \$5,499,637 over the FY 2021-22 Education Trust Fund appropriation.

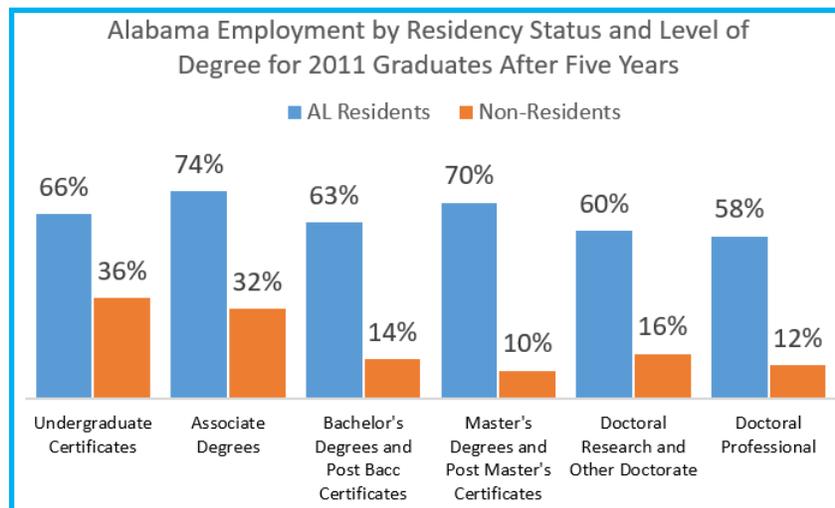
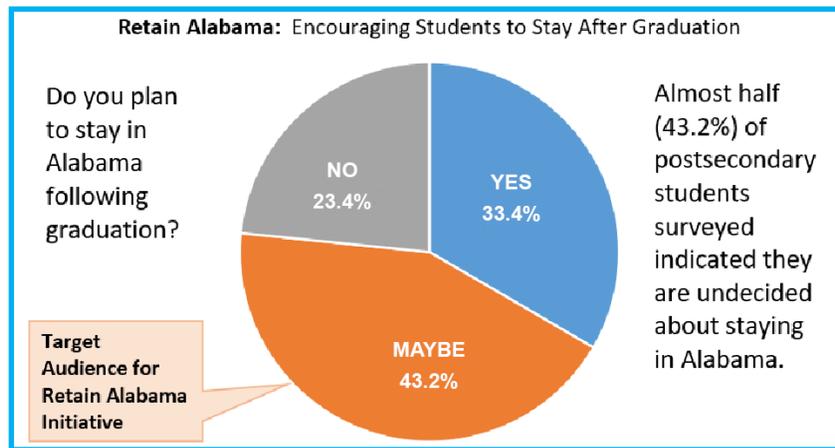
### Existing Operations

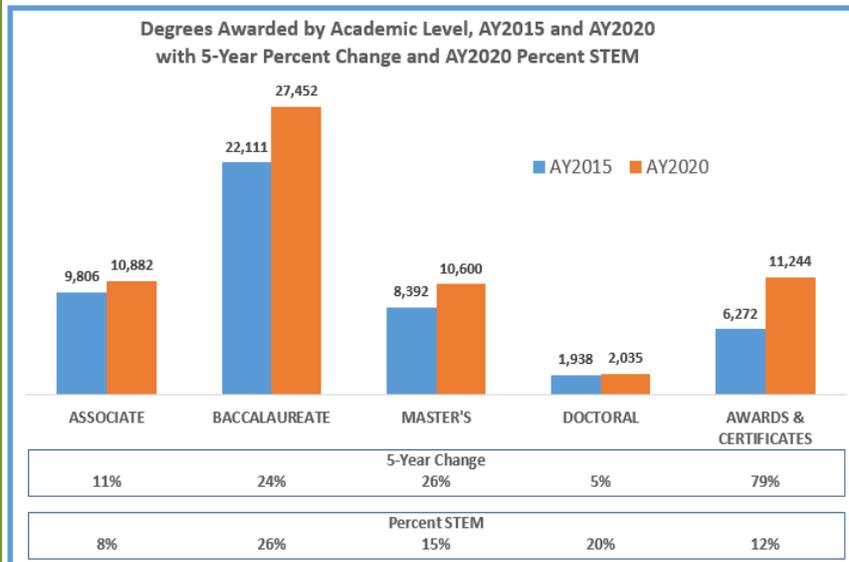
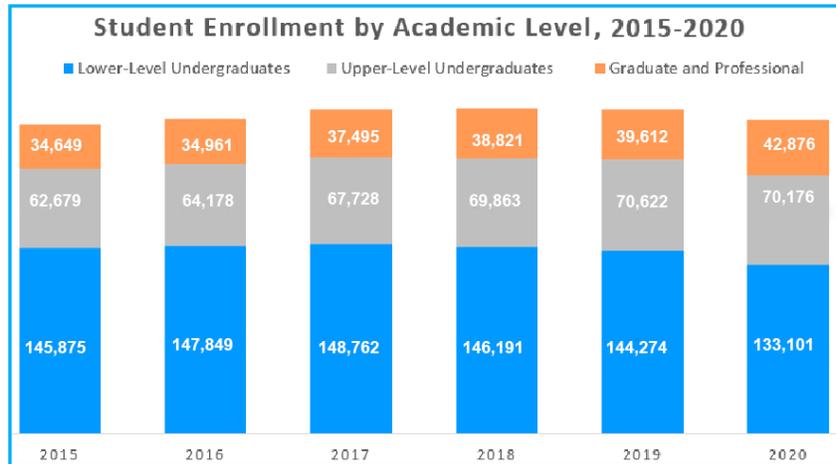
- An increase of 5% for O&M (would be a -7.39% below reversion re-appropriation)
- An increase of 5% for Student Assistance (3.22% over reversion re-appropriation)

### New Program Budget Requests

- **FAFSA Completion (\$500,000)** FAFSA completion will be a requirement for Alabama public high school graduates as of May 2022. ACHE is engaging in this State Board of Education initiative because it is the only agency in the state authorized to connect to the federal FAFSA database and see individual data for all Alabama students. Using \$1,100,000 in COVID/GEER funds, technological supports were put in place to assist students and families in completing the FAFSA - specifically with the correction of errors. It also supports campus efforts to address errors and requests for verification of certain information prior to a May graduation date. The software application and related services also provide progress reports for the career coaches, counselors, high school faculty and other district staff in assisting students with the application process. There is an annual \$500,000 licensing cost associated with this initiative.
- **Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness (GEAR UP) (\$2,500,000)** ACHE has been asked to assume responsibility for the statewide aspect of this federal matching grant program currently administered by UAB. GEAR UP is designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. GEAR UP grantees serve an entire cohort of students beginning no later than the seventh grade and follow the cohort through high school. GEAR UP funds can also be used to provide college scholarships to low-income students. GEAR UP provides multi-year grants to states and partnerships to provide services.
- **Education Micro-Credential Fund (\$1,000,000)** The Higher Education Micro-Credential Fund will support the development of short-term certificates at the state's universities that lead to industry recognized credentials. ACCS received funding to support the development of micro-credentials at their institutions in their 2021-22 budget. These educational vignettes can be incorporated into existing academic programs or serve as a stand-alone credential available to persons seeking to enhance their work skills.

- Retain Alabama** (\$800,000) is aimed at keeping the talent created by Alabama's public universities in support of Alabama's communities and economy in the state. \$800,000 (\$400,000 to ACHE and \$400,000 to EDPA), was funded last year to conduct a student survey to determine the obstacles that discourage university graduates from starting their careers in Alabama. **The results showed that 43% of Alabama's university graduates are undecided about whether to remain in Alabama.** Funding will be used to create a statewide job search/resource portal targeted specifically to university graduates, to provide opportunities for students to visit employers and to develop promotional materials about Alabama's career prospects.





Degree and credential production increased by 28.2% since AY2015

# Alabama Institutions



January 2022