



# Externally-Focused R&D Collaboratories

Ecosystems, Partnerships and Focus

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**Pew Leadership Forum on Public Impact in Research**  
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# PEW LEADERSHIP FORUM

## R&D Innovation Ecosystems

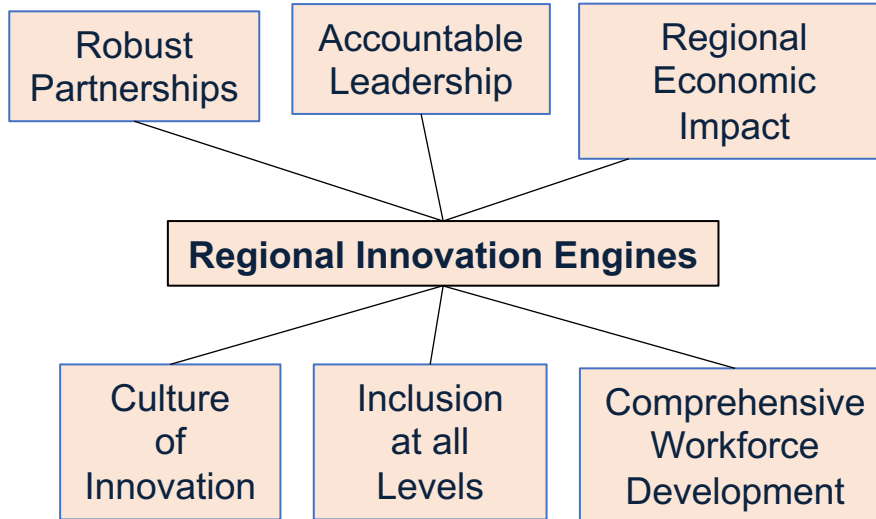
### Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program (MPP)

(1996-present)

- “Clusters and Competitiveness” (2008)
- “The Rise of Innovation Districts”
- “America’s Advanced Industries” (2015)
- “Urban Research Universities” (2017)
- “The Case for Growth Centers” (2019)
- “Regional Universities and Local Economies” (2021)
- “Funders’ Role in Scaling Education Innovation” (2024)

### National Science Foundation (NSF)

(2023-present)



### U.S. Council on Competitiveness

(2015-present)

- “Competing in the Next Economy” (2022)
- “The Future of Place-Based Innovation” (2023)
- Four Recommendations:
  - Regional and national strategies to support specialized regional innovation hubs
  - Expansion and retention of local talent base
  - Inclusive growth and innovation in regional hubs
  - Digital infrastructure and local financing

### National Academies’ Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable (1975-present)

“Interpreting the Axioms of Innovation” (2023) as one of many examples....

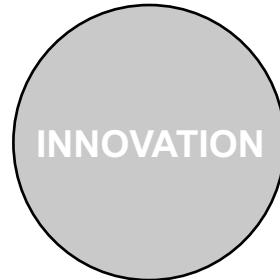
- Strengthen commercialization ecosystem
- Engage underserved communities in STEM

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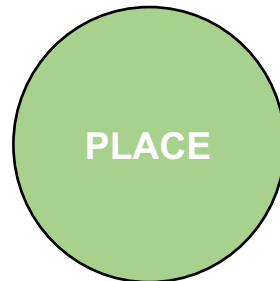
## Strategic External Partnerships Focus



APLU and its **Commission on Economic and Community Engagement (CECE)** established the **Innovation and Economic Prosperity (IEP) Universities Program** to help institutions strengthen their strategy and practices in economic and community development and to recognize exemplars.



**Ninety-one institutions** have earned this distinguished recognition by working with on-campus (faculty, staff, leadership, and students) and off-campus (businesses, local and state government, communities, and others) stakeholders to complete rigorous self-study of their economic engagement enterprise that allows them to identify strengths and growth opportunities.



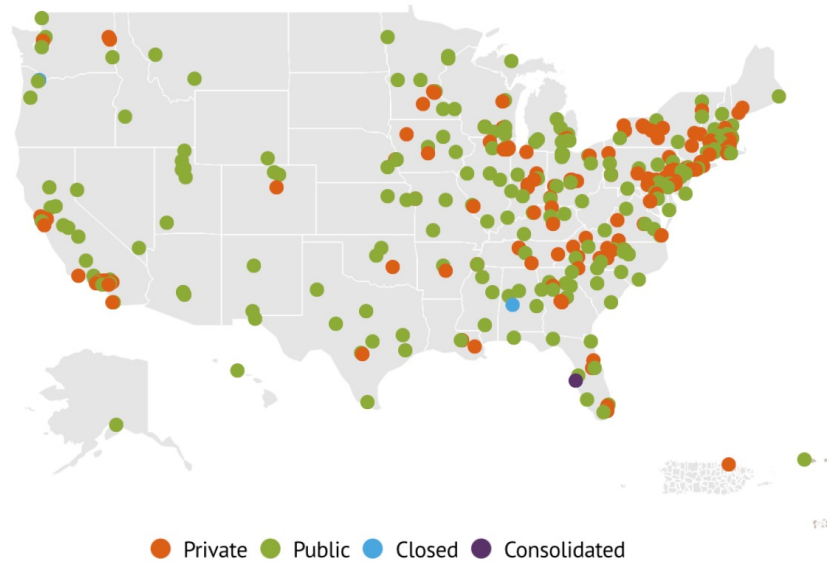
Institutions complete the program collaboratively with APLU staff and a **national community of practice**. Ideas are shared across the national community. Once designated, institutions implement their growth and improvement plans and conduct outreach efforts to elevate visibility.

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## Strategic External Partnerships Focus



**Elective Classification for Community Engagement 2015, 2020, and 2024**  
368 Currently Classified Institutions

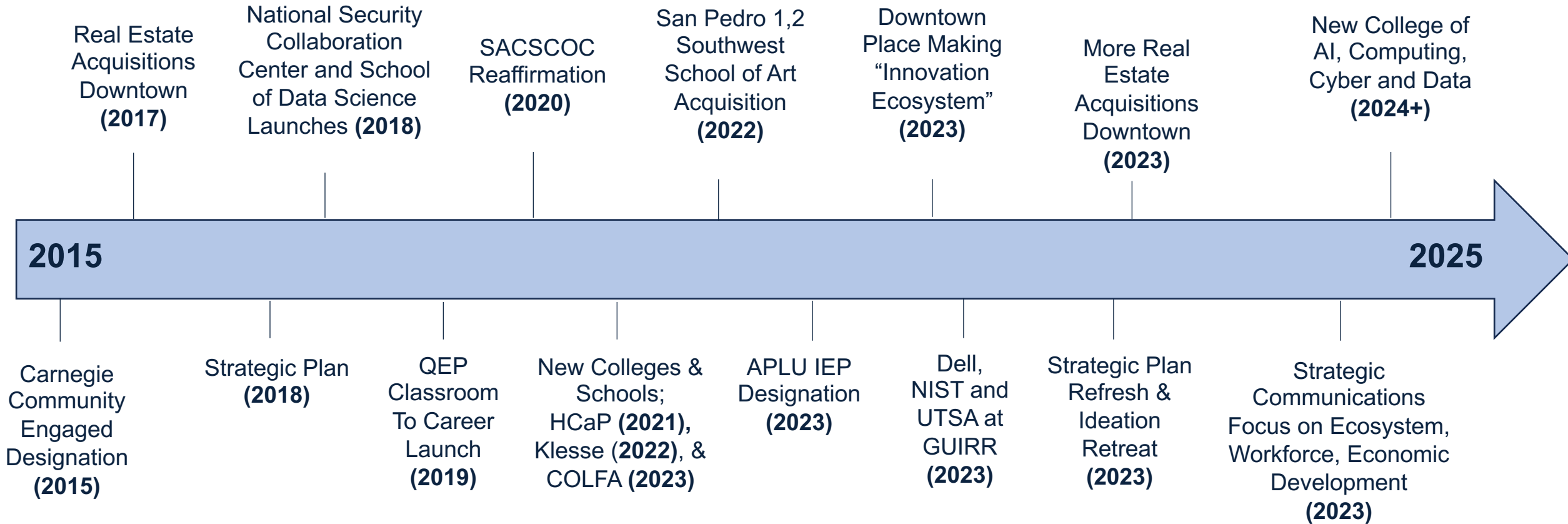


- Collaboration between institutions and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge involving partnerships and reciprocity.
- Partnerships with public and private sector partners to enrich scholarship, research, and creative activity; enhance curriculum, teaching, and learning; prepare citizenry; strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration; address critical societal issues; and contribute to the public good.

# PEW LEADERSHIP FORUM

## Pivoting Institutional Focus Externally:

The UTSA Journey in the San Antonio AI, Compute, Cyber and Data Ecosystem



**UTSA<sup>®</sup>**

**CREATING**

**BOLD**

**FUTURES**