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*The Future of Undergraduate Education,  
The Future of America:*

**A Discussion with the National Science Board**

February 22, 2018

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# Recovering the Nation's Educational Momentum

What was once a challenge of quantity in American undergraduate education, of enrolling as many students as possible, is increasingly a challenge of:

- making sure that all students receive the **quality** education they need to succeed,
- that they are able to **complete** the studies they begin,
- and that they can do all of this **affordably**, without mortgaging the very future they seek to improve.





## Considerations for a STEM-capable workforce: Focus on Good Teaching

- Students learn more and fail less when faculty use effective teaching methods but **diffusion is limited**
- Widespread adoption is more likely to occur through **departmental and institutional change processes** and addressing **faculty workforce challenges**





## Considerations for a STEM-capable workforce: Understanding the Value of the Degree

- An education that provides a significant earnings premium and opens doors to opportunity is **affordable**, even if it requires borrowing.
- A **low-quality education is not affordable**, even if it has a low price tag.
- Focus on **policies and practices** that improve quality and outcomes and on providing **information & guidance**.





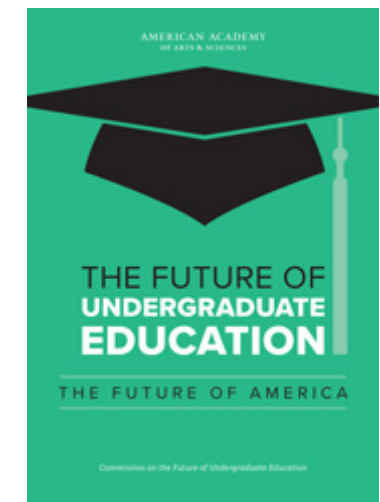
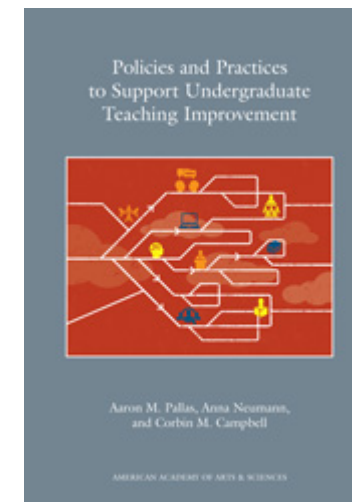
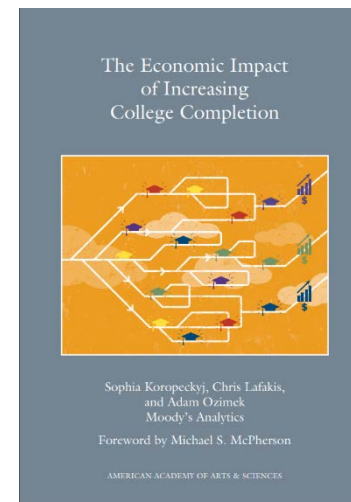
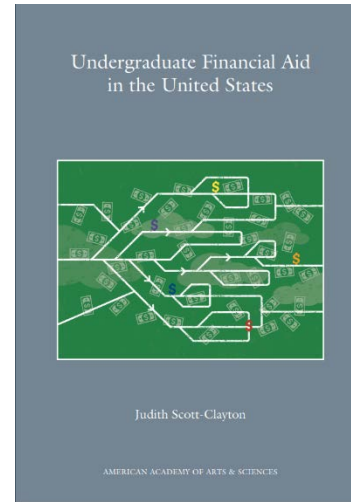
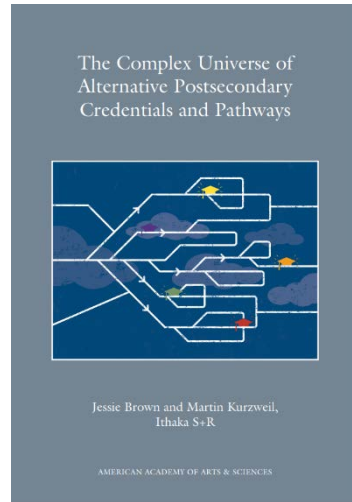
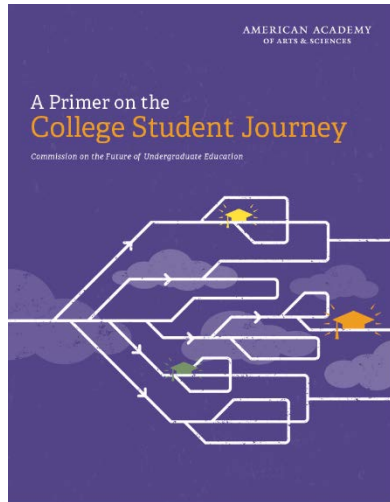
## Considerations for a STEM-capable workforce Institutional and Systems Changes

- **Guided pathways designs** emphasize structure and support, well-defined programs, clear maps to completion, and active use of data.
- **Improving transfer** will do more to advance the opportunities for underrepresented students more than any national policy, including affirmative action.





# Publications



All publications available at [www.amacad.org/cfue](http://www.amacad.org/cfue).

*A Primer on the College Student Journey, The Complex Universe of Alternative Postsecondary Credentials, Undergraduate Financial Aid in the United States, The Economic Impact of Increasing College Completion, Policies and Practices to Support Undergraduate Teaching Improvement, The Future of Undergraduate Education, The Future of America.*