

# **The Big ReThink:**

## **Our Transformation Agenda for Public Higher Education Systems**

**Rebecca Martin  
Devinder Malhotra  
Kim Hunter Reed**

**SHEEO Higher Education Policy Conference**  
November 9, 2021

**NASH**  
National Association  
of System Heads



# A Remote Shift of Pandemic Proportions

**INSIDE**  
HIGHER ED

Colleges Go Online  
to Avoid COVID-19

**The New York Times**

*As Colleges Move Classes Online, Families  
Rebel Against the Cost*

THE CHRONICLE  
OF HIGHER EDUCATION

As Covid-19 Surges,  
Some Campuses Will  
Start the Semester Online

**Bloomberg**

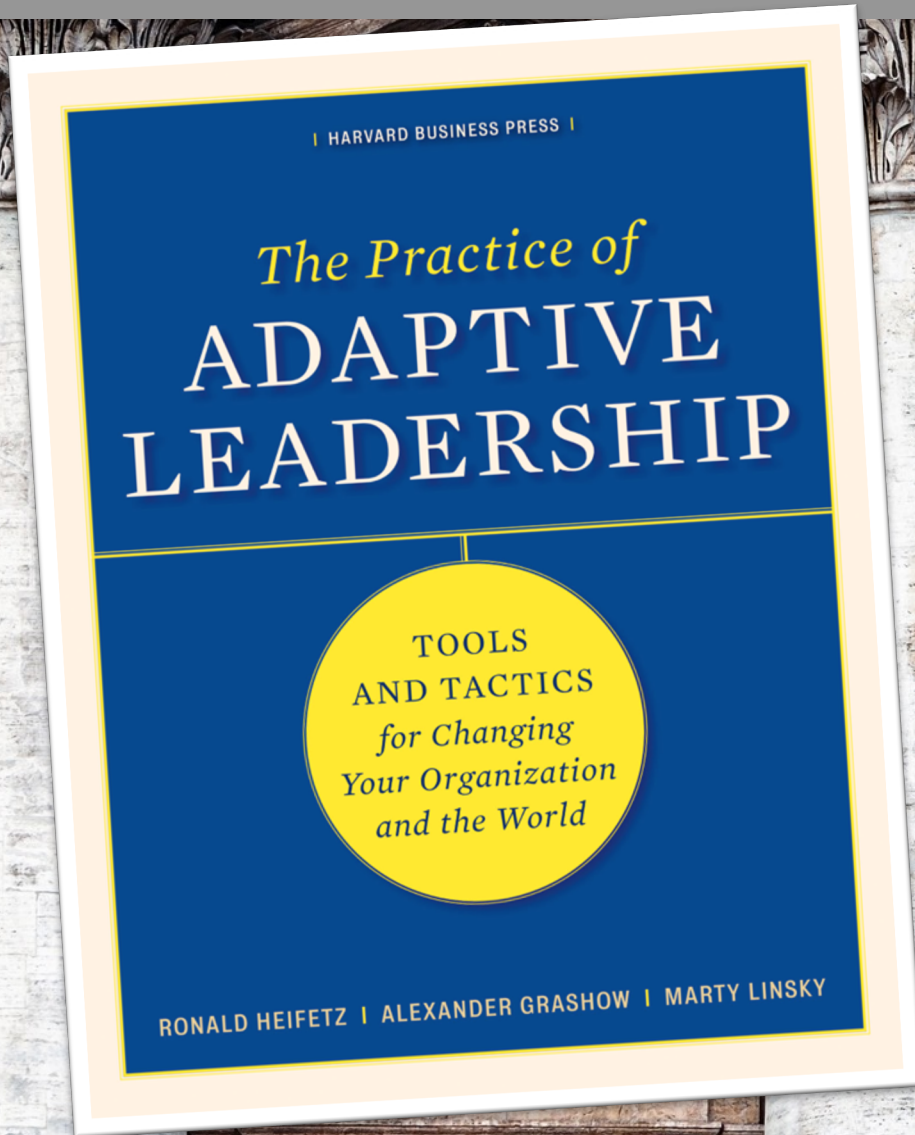
Harvard MBA Students Move Online as  
Breakthrough Cases Climb

**THE  
HILL**

Cuomo says NY colleges  
with 100 coronavirus  
cases must 'go remote' for  
two weeks



# Get on the Balcony



NASH



# The Challenge



President Barack Obama  
at SUNY Buffalo in 2013

"America ranks 21st when it comes to math education. We rank 25th when it comes to science. We used to be number one in the proportion of college graduates. We now rank ninth.

**And at an age where knowledge, skills, are the determinant of how successful we're going to be, unless we reverse that we're going to keep slipping behind economically to a lot of**



# The Strategy



**Tested  
solutions  
at scale.**



# Who can do this?



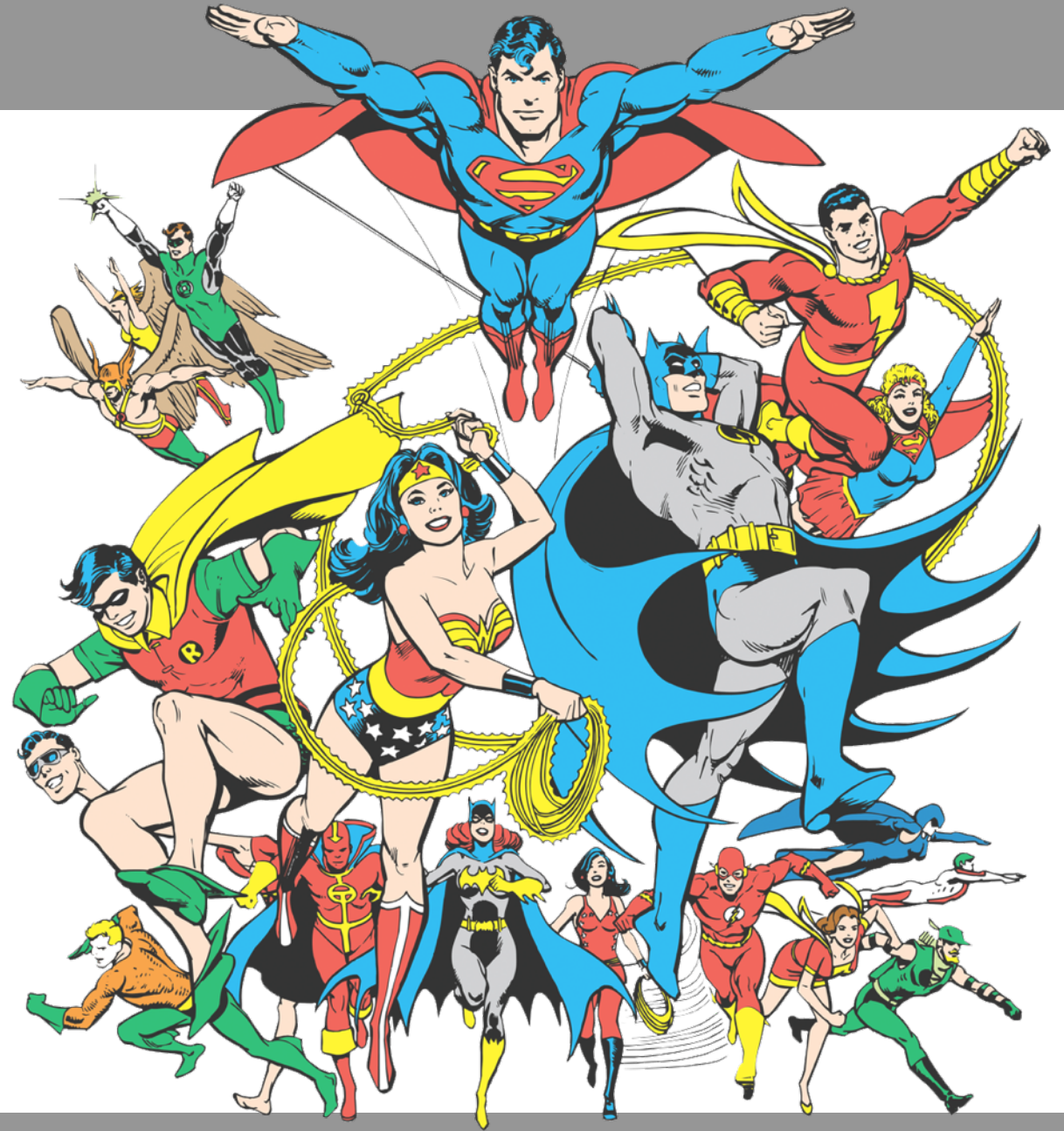
NASH



# Systems can do this.

## Only systems have:

- Statutory authority
- Board authority
- Integrated sectors
- Collective impact





# Systems

## Why?

Because we have proof points.

Systems provide affordable, accessible, quality education to **75 percent** of America's 4-year public college students.

**TS3**  
Taking Student  
Success To Scale

**NASH  
Transfer  
Network**

**Equity  
Action  
Collaborative**

**Scaling  
Instructional  
Excellence**



# Systems

## How?

Working together.

Our systems leverage the power of our campuses in service to our students and our states, with value greater than the sum of our parts.





# How We Got Here

## **THE BIG RETHINK**

is a strategic planning process that was driven



## **STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION**

consisting of surveys, webinars, zooms, and design teams that led



## **FIVE IMPERATIVES**

that guide our actions and will be  
implemented across distinct platforms...





**Announcing...**



# **The Power of Systems**

## **Advancing Prosperity for the Nation**

**NASH**



# The Plan in Action

Our work is  
supported by  
three platforms



**The Institute for  
Systems  
Innovation &  
Improvement**

**The Redesign of State  
Infrastructure to Support  
the Power of Systems**

**The Federal Plan  
for Supporting the  
Power of Systems**





**An instrument  
intended to coalesce  
the power of our  
nation's public  
systems to expand  
and achieve student  
access, completion  
and success at scale  
by 2030.**



# Our Five Imperatives



## LEARNING

System-wide support for flexible and responsive programs to meet the unique needs of each student.



## TALENT

A civically engaged and globally competitive workforce that contributes to community vitality, economic development and knowledge creation.



## EQUITY

Just and accessible opportunities that empower all students through the removal of structural and systemic barriers.



## INVESTMENT

Collective resource sharing and efficiencies to reinvest in student success.



## SYSTEMNESS

Leveraging the power of public higher education systems to better serve students and society.



# The Learning Imperative



**System-wide support  
for flexible and  
responsive programs  
to meet the unique  
needs of each student.**

- a. Focus on engagement and support of students, addressing their diverse learning and social needs.
- b. Promote the development, teaching, and assessment of equity-centered academic and experiential curricula across the system.
- c. Advance flexible pathways and shared degrees, credentials, courses, credits and support services across the system, both virtual and in-person.
- d. Implement multidirectional transfer frameworks that allow for the equitable and seamless movement of students and credits across campuses.
- e. Invest in technology to improve access, affordability and achievement.



# The Talent Imperative



**A civically engaged and globally competitive workforce that contributes to community vitality, economic development and knowledge creation.**

- a. Foster strong system partnerships by implementing innovative practices that deepen employer and civic engagement, and recognize diverse learner and workforce needs.
- b. Develop statewide strategies to accommodate diverse student markets with multiple on-ramps to admission, alternative delivery mechanisms, and effective teaching methods.
- c. Champion and invest in new roles for full and part-time faculty and support staff to meet changing demographics, while functioning in a multi-campus system.
- d. Promote strategic partnerships to champion educator recruitment, preparation and renewal as a crucial resource throughout the entire student pipeline.
- e. Advance a learner pathway profile as a student-centered tool to help institutions and students communicate to stakeholders what they know and can do.



# The Equity Imperative



**Just and accessible opportunities that empower all students through the removal of structural and systemic barriers.**

- a. Commit publicly to comprehensive action to advance equity across the system.
- b. Advance concrete actions to increase inclusiveness and equity across systems through the implementation of the NASH Equity Action Framework.
- c. Strengthen seamless K-12 partnerships to increase learning opportunities for students and enhance teacher engagement to address the needs of underserved communities.
- d. Support system-level engagement to enhance inclusive community-based partnerships.
- e. Expand equitable access to broadband, open, and digital resources.



# The Investment Imperative



**Collective resource sharing and efficiencies to reinvest in student success.**

- a. Create a new system business model to target resources to achieve our goals.
- b. Reinvest funds to support evidence-based best practices for innovations at scale.
- c. Share assets, infrastructure, and services to reduce system costs, to be reinvested in student success, innovation, and equity efforts.
- d. Leverage facilities and other assets to advance local and state economic and community development.
- e. Advocate for federal and state reinvestment in public higher education.



# The Systemness Imperative



**Leveraging the power of public higher education systems to better serve students and society.**

- a. Champion state and federal policies and a system-wide organizational culture that value equity, economies of scale, innovation and collaboration.
- b. Advance an organizational structure focused on outcomes, putting student and state needs at the center.
- c. Adapt continuous improvement strategies as a theory of change to drive the scale and impact potential of state systems.
- d. Strengthen system-level data analytics and report annually on progress to foster transparency, accountability, and strategic, actionable decision-making.
- e. Articulate and advocate broadly the value and public purpose of higher education.



# The Methodology

Carnegie believes that the most effective and efficient way to organize improvement efforts is through networked improvement communities (NICs),  
**a colleagueship of expertise building on the hard work and creativity of many.**





# The NASH Approach



**Leverage expertise within and through a Network of Systems to:**

- Generate consensus
- Foster cross-system collaboration
- Coordinate and exchange information
- Establish Networked Improvement Communities
- Distribute capacity across systems

Stanford Social Innovation Review – Winter 2011



# Taking Student Success to Scale (TS<sup>3</sup>)

- Leverages three evidence-based student success strategies
  - High Impact Practices
  - Math Pathways
  - Predictive Analytics
- Aligns efforts across systems and campuses
- Increases economies of scale and scope
- Utilizes Collective Impact & Improvement Science approaches
- Supports 20 systems and over 300 campuses

Funding from the Lumina Foundation to implement and scale High Impact Practices in four systems.



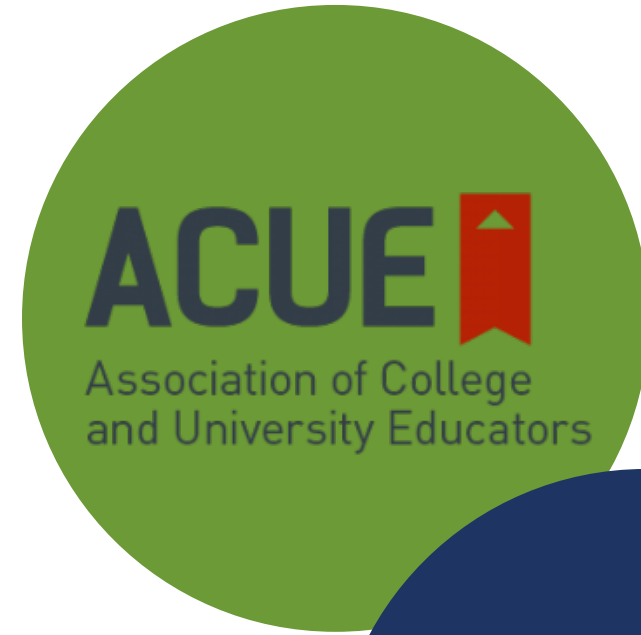


# Scaling Instructional Excellence to Improve Student Success

## A collaboration with ACUE

- Scaling intentional, high-quality professional development for faculty
- Recognizing the importance of faculty in the success of students
- Leveraging system leadership to drive effective teaching across campuses

Funding from the **Charles Koch Foundation** for four NASH systems to collectively enroll more than **1500 faculty on 31 campuses** in credentialing programs in evidence-based effective teaching practices.





# Equity Action Collaborative

Recognizing that systems have a responsibility to confront systemic inequity and publicly stand for the values of inclusive excellence.

## The NASH Equity Action Framework

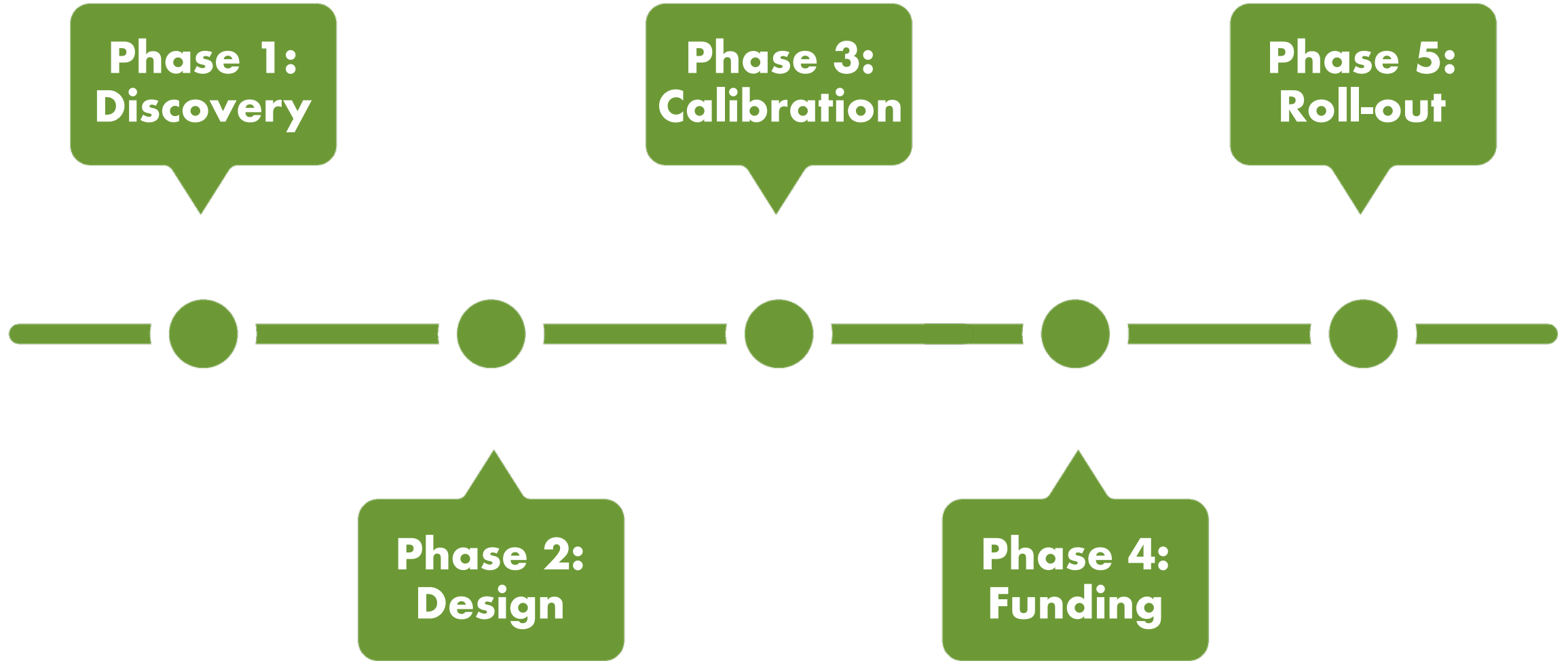
- intentionally expands the equity lens that is core to its mission
- promotes explicit and sustained engagement with equity
- enables systems to assess progress and take action with essential equity practices

**17 systems** are working together to learn from each other and advance this framework in their systems.





# The Timeline





# Registration is Now OPEN

The invitations  
have been sent!

Join us  
December 8-9, 2021  
Grand Hyatt Washington

Sign-up today at  
[bigrethink.eventbrite.com](https://bigrethink.eventbrite.com)

The poster is for 'The Big ReThink Superconvening' event. It features a dark blue background with a white circular graphic on the left containing a photograph of the U.S. Capitol dome. The text is primarily in white and yellow. At the top, it says 'YOU ARE INVITED: The Big ReThink Superconvening'. Below this, there are two columns of text explaining the event's significance and purpose. The dates 'DECEMBER 8-9, 2021' and the location 'GRAND HYATT WASHINGTON' are prominently displayed in yellow. Further down, it lists the host and the key elements of the agenda. A section titled 'COLLABORATE WITH:' lists various stakeholders. A 'KEYNOTE:' section lists Secretary Miguel Cardona and Under Secretary James Kvaal. At the bottom right, it provides the registration link, the sign-up deadline, and a note that the invitation is non-transferable. The logos for NASH (National Association of System Heads) and TIAA are at the bottom.

**YOU ARE INVITED:**  
**The Big ReThink Superconvening**

We now have an historic endorsement by system heads across the nation on major higher education reforms.  
For over a year, public systems of higher education, impacting the lives of most of the nation's 4-year public undergraduate students, have engaged in a strategic planning process called The Big ReThink.

This invitation-only event will mark the beginning of a decade-long commitment from public university systems to improve the delivery of equitable and quality services for student success, together.

Join us for the unveiling of our transformation agenda for public higher education systems.

**DECEMBER 8-9, 2021**  
**GRAND HYATT WASHINGTON**  
1000 H Street NW, Washington, D.C., United States, 20001

Hosted at the nation's capital, leaders in their field will gather to discuss the key elements of this transformation agenda, and the road to achieving it by 2030.

**COLLABORATE WITH:**

- Public University System Leaders
- Campus Presidents & Chancellors
- Student & Faculty Shared Governance Chairs
- Supporting Foundation Leaders
- Postsecondary Association Directors
- Education and Workforce Partners

**KEYNOTE:**  
Secretary Miguel Cardona, *Invited*  
Under Secretary James Kvaal, *Invited*  
U.S. Department of Education

REGISTER FOR THIS SUPERCONVENING AT:  
[BIGRETHINK.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://bigrethink.eventbrite.com)

**Deadline to sign up is November 8.**  
**This invitation is non-transferable.**

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BIG RETHINK:  
[NASHONLINE.ORG/BIG-RETHINK](https://nashonline.org/big-rethink)

**NASH**  
National Association  
of System Heads

**TIAA**



# Thank you.

**Rebecca Martin**  
**Devinder Malhotra**  
**Kim Hunter Reed**

**SHEEO Higher Education Policy Conference**  
November 9, 2021

**NASH**  
National Association  
of System Heads