

Bridget Burns

Executive Director, University Innovation Alliance

As a trusted advisor to university presidents, Dr. Bridget Burns is on a mission to transform the way institutions think about and take action on the behalf of low-income, first generation, and students of color. She serves as the founding Executive Director of the University Innovation Alliance, the first consortium of public research universities collaborating to close achievement gaps through testing, scaling, and sharing innovative and successful practices.

Named one of the "16 Most Innovative People in Higher Education" by *Washington*

Monthly magazine, her work has helped the UIA campuses accelerate student success innovation.

Since 2013, the UIA campuses have increased retention rates by 2.2% (average) and graduation rates by 1.1% (average). UIA has also helped increase the number of students who are first-generation, low-income, and students of color by 15%.

At age 22, and has spent the past two decades working with more than 30 presidents and chancellors from around the world on their higher education journey at community colleges, Bachelor's degree (Political Science) and Master's degree in Higher Education, and her Doctorate of Education from Vanderbilt University.