



**From:** The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program  
**To:** City Colleges of Chicago  
**Re:** Sole Source Qualification  
**Date:** August 25, 2022

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program seeks sole source approval for a contract to provide leadership development training focused on excellence and equity in student success to leaders at the City Colleges of Chicago from Fall 2022-Spring 2024. Topics of the trainings will include post-completion student success, senior team alignment, alignment of workforce offerings to strong student outcomes, and strategic finance.

The Aspen Institute's College Excellence Program aims to advance higher education practices and leadership that significantly improve student learning, completion, and employment after college—especially for the growing population of students of color and low-income students on American campuses. The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program (CEP) focuses on building capacity for transformational change at the institutional level through leadership development and practice reform, as well as across the field through practice-focused research, convening, and knowledge dissemination. On the topics presented in this sequence of sessions, CEP has unique expertise in the field, including:

- Development and deployment of a curriculum for student success aimed at senior leaders, honed over six cohorts of CEP's Rising Presidents Fellowship and two cohorts of CEP's New Presidents Fellowship
- Development of a curriculum for senior teams and deployment of the curriculum to over 200 leaders nationally
- Publication of The Workforce Playbook and delivery of workshops on its content to 88 individual college teams and over 200 other individual leaders
- Publication of The Dual Enrollment Playbook (in conjunction with the Community College Research Center) and development of an aligned curriculum, currently in pilot testing with our Fellowship alumni network
- Research and curriculum development on strategic finance and human capital, with deployment of the curriculum to over 200 leaders nationally

As the creator and owner of these curricular materials, CEP is uniquely qualified to deliver these services. These curricular materials are distinct from other leadership offerings in the field due to the focus on high and equitable levels of students success, based on over ten years of research on top-performing community colleges through the Aspen Prize, as well as other specific research projects documented above.

Sincerely,

Millicent Bender  
Director, Curriculum  
College Excellence Program, Aspen Institute