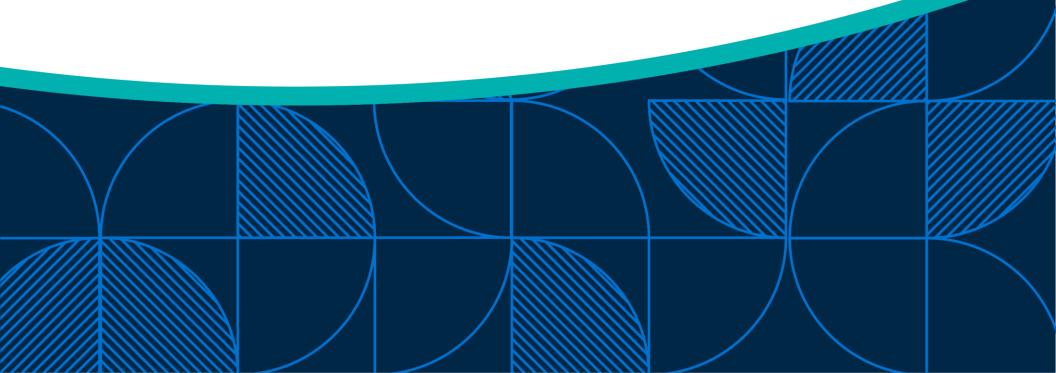


ADULT LEARNER RECRUITMENT

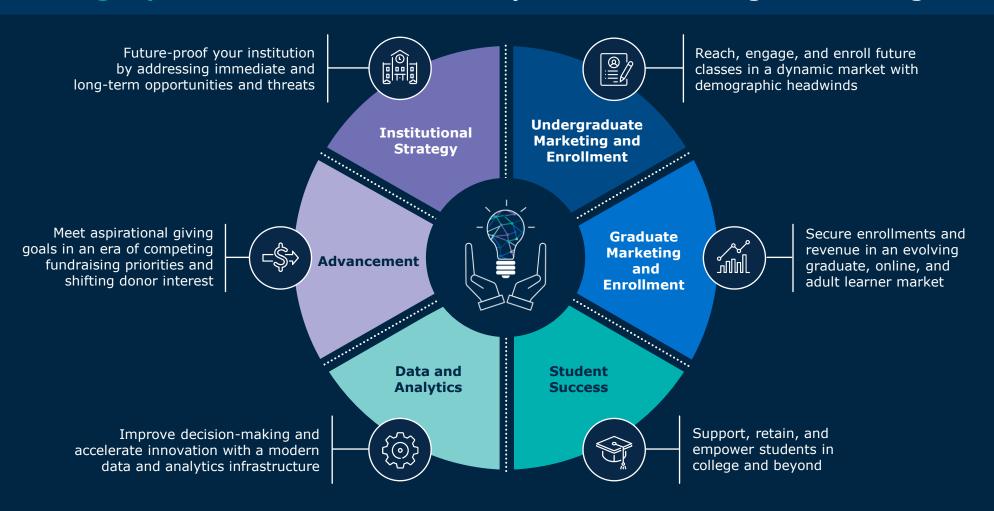
# Succeeding in a New Era of Graduate, Online, and Adult Enrollment





# Education's Trusted Partner to Help Schools and Students Thrive

## **Insight-powered Solutions for Your Top Priorities and Toughest Challenges**



We partner with 2,800+ institutions to accelerate progress, deliver results, and enable lasting change.

95%+ of our partners return to us year after year because of results we achieve, together.



Owen Crean

Managing Director and Principal

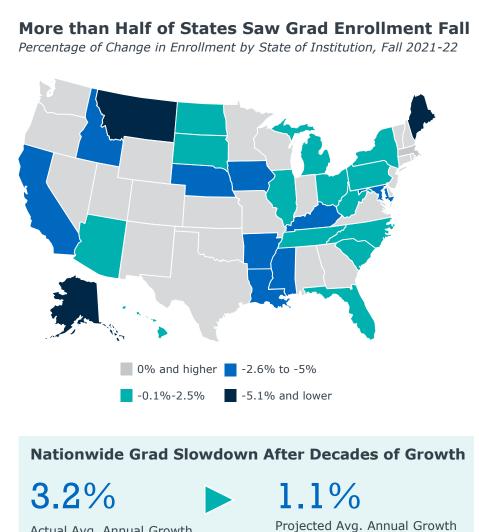
EAB Adult Learner Recruitment



**Stacie Toal, Ph.D.**Principal
EAB Financial Aid Optimization

## Fewer Students Are Entering the Graduate and Adult Education Markets

And It's Only Getting Worse



Actual Avg. Annual Growth 1990 - 2021

2021 - 2031

#### ...With More Trouble on the Horizon

Undergraduate Enrollment Is Falling

#### **Nonconsumption**



-7.7% Decline in college-going rate of recent high school graduates,

#### **Demographic Cliff**



**-6.3**% Decline in 15-to-19-year-old population, 2021-32

Student Demographics and Behaviors Are Shifting

#### **Changing Student Profile**



60%

Gen Z will account for 60% of the adult learner population by 2031

#### **Mega-Stealth Shopping**

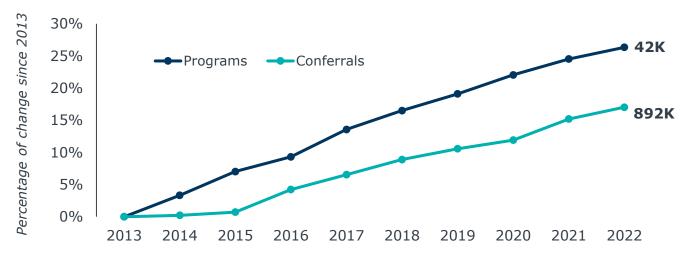


of adult learner applicants are "stealth," up from 20% in 2014

Source: National Student Clearinghouse; "Global Burdens of Disease Population Projections 2019-2100," Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation; EAB Blueprint for Growth analysis of 2000-2021; EAB research interviews and analysis

## At the Same Time, Schools Face More Competition for Fewer Students

#### **University Competition Is Heating Up as New Graduate Programs Outpace Conferrals**



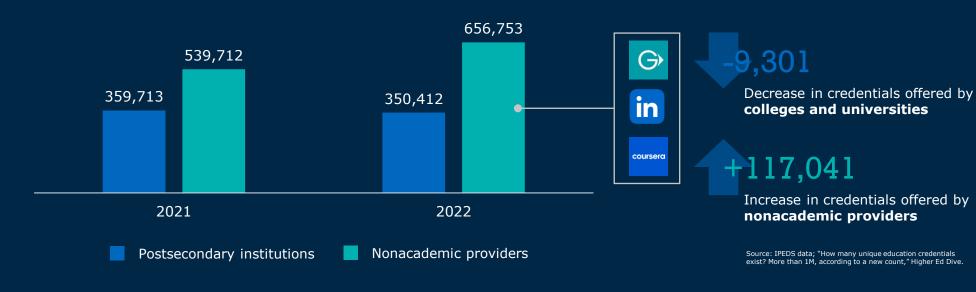
2.37% average annual growth rate, programs

1.58% average annual growth rate, conferrals



#### **Nonacademic Providers Are a Growing Threat**

Estimated count of credentials offered (certificates, badges, licenses, diplomas, etc.), 2021-22



## A Series of Unknowns Make This Market Even More Challenging



#### **Economic Headwinds**

- How will a changing economy impact demand for degrees?
- How will inflation impact university budgets?
- How will increasing tax burdens on young adults impact enrollments?



#### 2024 Election

- How could the election impact international enrollment?
- How could student debt relief policies impact consumer spending and inflation?
- How could changing policies around federal funding impact higher ed?



## International Landscape

- How will population decline in China impact enrollment?
- How will U.S. institutions reach emerging and growing markets in Africa?
- How could countries like Canada and the UK capping international students impact U.S. enrollments?

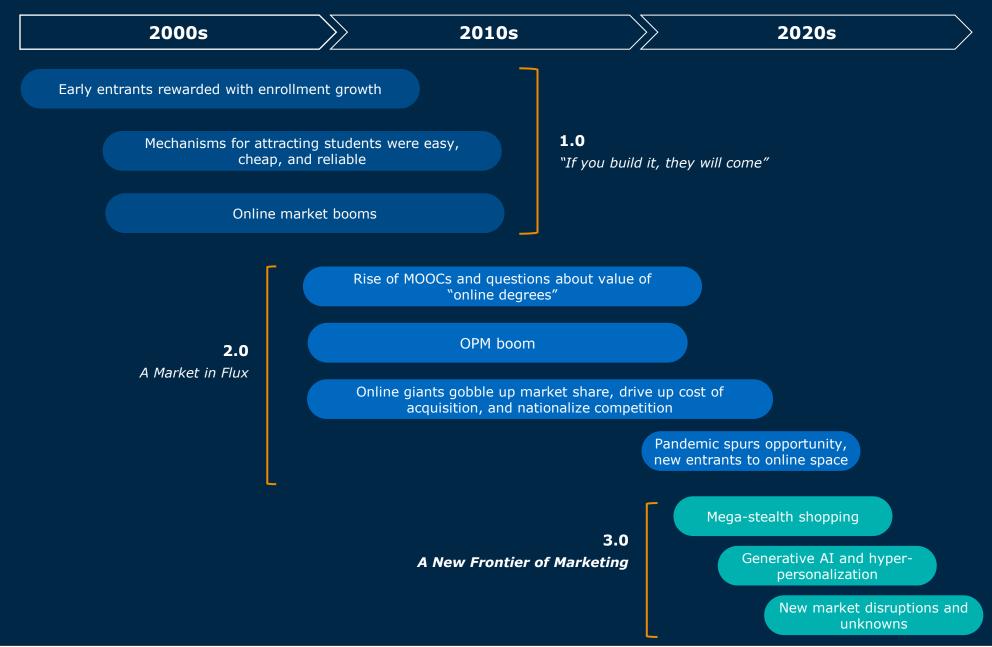


## **Artificial Intelligence**

- What is AI's role in higher education?
- Is AI a distraction or necessary tool?
- How will AI change the future of work—and how can higher ed best prepare students?

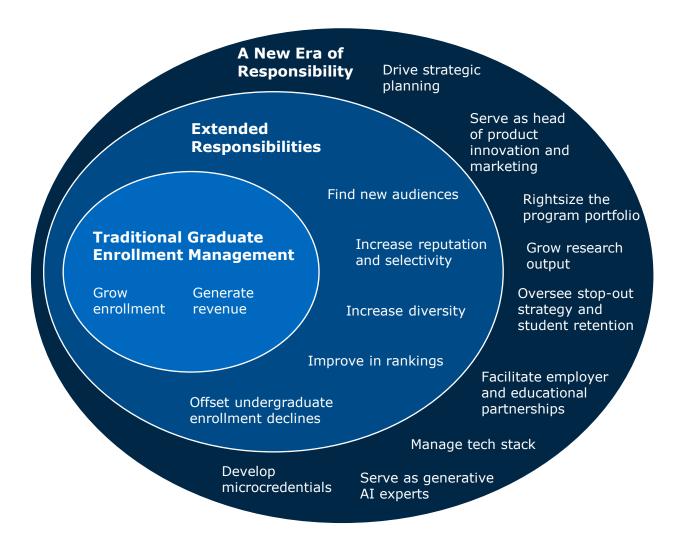
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## Entering a New Chapter in Graduate and Online Enrollment Management



## Graduate Enrollment Leaders Are Being Asked to Do More—with Less

#### **New and Different-in-Kind Responsibilities for Enrollment Leaders**



## ...All While Facing Resource Constraints



68%

of surveyed graduate enrollment leaders said they have **at least one vacancy** on their team



65%

of surveyed university executives have **not increased budget** for graduate and adult education since 2020

## ...And More Pressure from Senior Leaders



100%

of surveyed **presidents and provosts** said graduate and adult enrollment is a **high or moderate priority** 



63%

of surveyed presidents and provosts said graduate and adult enrollment is a high **or moderate priority for their boards of trustees** 

Source: EAB and NAGAP fall 2023 survey of 422 graduate enrollment leaders; EAB summer 2022 survey of 64 presidents, provosts, and VPEMs; EAB interviews and analysis.

Right **decisions**. Right **programs**. Right **channels**. Right **audiences**. Rightsized **results**. Right **now**.

## How Does Your Enrollment Shop Stack Up?

# Explore the Full Diagnostic Opening a representation of the control in a New East Contr

# **Level 1** *Reactive*

Strategy and Limited or absent Program program assessment Management Lead and Audience Single or limited lead Generation generation channels Simple email follow-up Lead Management system for inbound or and Conversion sourced leads Admissions staff engage Application and with each applicant for Yield Management decision support Limited or absent CRM for Technology and performance management and reporting **Analytics** 

## **Level 2**Foundational, Stable

Ad hoc labor insights reports on select programs

Small array of lead generation efforts for select programs or schools

Dynamic architecture with email and staff follow-up to convert leads

Fast admissions decisions, with ROI-driven messaging and follow-up

Campus-wide use of CRM with clear channels for follow-up

**Level 4** *Proactive, Market-Leading* 

**Level 3** *Strategic* 

Annual program review, including labor market analysis

Digital marketing efforts on multiple channels to promote brand and programs

Sophisticated lead cultivation, including multifactor engagement across channels

Digital and personnel tools for application and yield support

Full CRM adoption, with regular insight and analysis of KPIs

Frequent, full-portfolio review with multifactor inputs, resulting in new program launches, refreshes, and sunsetting of programs

Fully optimized array of digital and organic lead generation efforts, including .edu, program, and brand marketing

Advanced lead cultivation, responsive to student intent and behavior

Full array of digital tools and staff efforts for financial aid support, deposit intel, and anti-melt strategies

AI to drive hyperpersonalization and full tech stack with real-time reporting

## EAB Adult Learner Recruitment

Secure Your Future in a Changing Graduate, Online, and Adult Learner Market

## **Outperform the Market at Every Stage of the Funnel**



#### **Strategize**

Identify and build marketready programs for competitive advantage



## **Curate**

Expand and diversify your pool of right-fit students



#### **Cultivate**

Customized campaigns to drive students to application





#### Convert

Improve yield and retention to maximize enrollment potential

#### **What Makes Us Different**

40+ Years of **Higher Ed Expertise** 

**Unrivaled Access** to New Audiences

Seamless Marketing **Orchestration**  Visibility into Full-Funnel Performance

#### **Proven Results in a Dynamic Landscape**

200 +

Partner institutions

Average ROI across multiyear partnership 18%

Average graduate enrollment growth

Average NTR influenced per partner

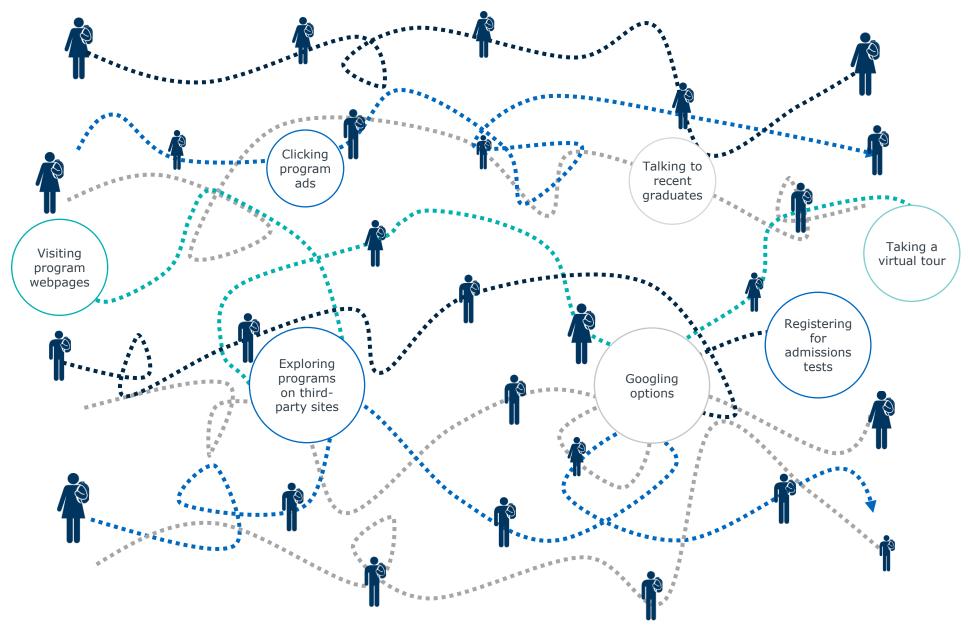


# Curate

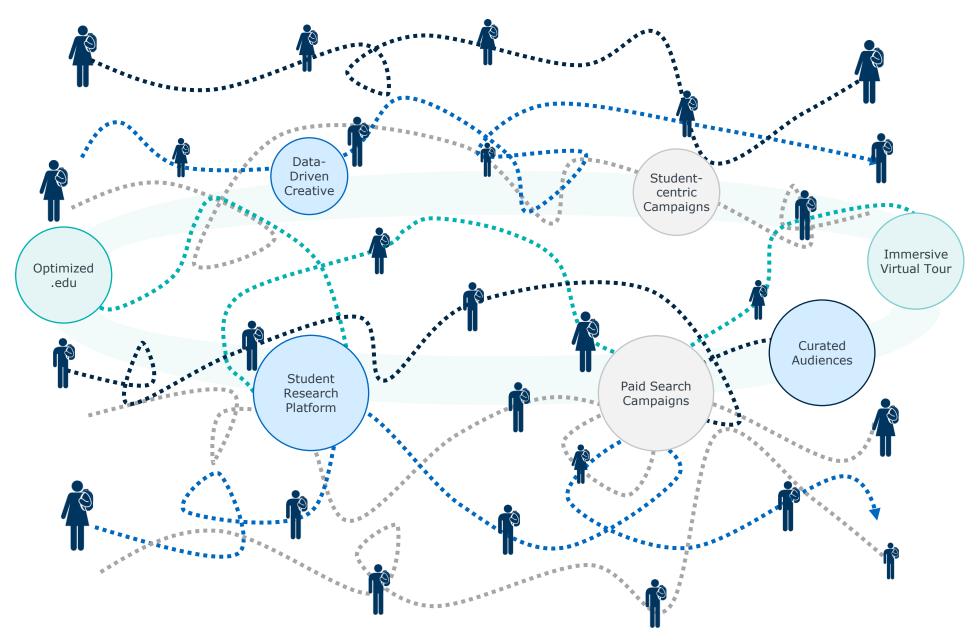
Expand and Diversify Your Pool of Right-Fit Students

## And Graduate and Adult Enrollment Growth is Nothing if Not Complex

Characterized by Thousands of Moments of Micro-engagement, for Thousands of Students



## Making Identifying and Engaging the Market Akin to Herding Cats



## Take Control of Your Decision Landscape

Two Different Approaches for Dealing with a Complex Set of Day-to-Day Enrollment Decisions

## Approach A

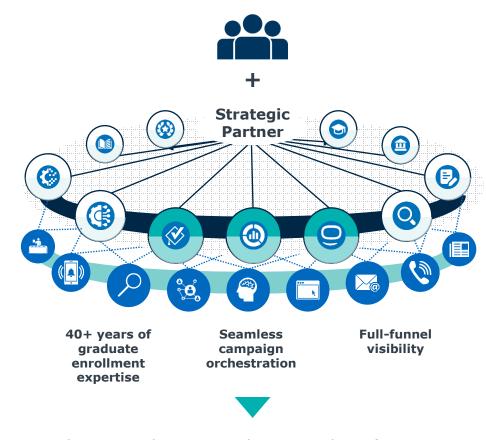
This team works with multiple enrollment vendors but is still responsible for making hundreds of discrete strategy and execution decisions each week.



This approach can lead to suboptimal decision-making, lost opportunities, and missed enrollment goals.

#### **Approach B**

This team works with a single enrollment firm who acts as a strategic partner, handling most day-to-day strategy and execution decisions, including channel coordination.



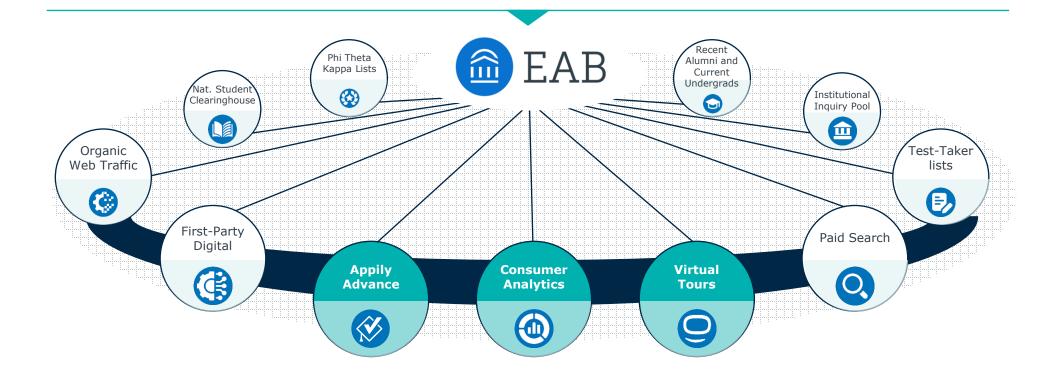
This approach optimizes decision-making, freeing up the team's time for relationship-building and big-picture strategy work.

## Access and Expertise Needed to Manage Lead Generation Strategies

Your Goals and Differentiators

**Strategy Transformation** 

**Intelligent Analytics** 



#### **Unrivaled Student Access and Insight**

1.5B+ Student interactions analyzed annually

#### **Diversifying Leads Across Proprietary and Known Sources**



Only with EAB



Known sources optimized by EAB

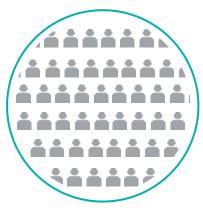


EAB Pixel

## How Consumer Analytics Support Your Strategy

Our Approach Marries Your Data with Our Consumer Database

#### **Historical Students**

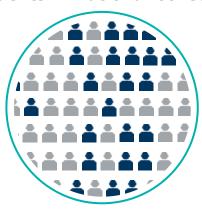


Basic contact information such as gender and age

#### **Historical Students in National Consumer Database**



Analyze and Match Using Machine Learning



Isolate characteristics of high-affinity prospects from a database with 200 million consumers and 115+ variables

#### **New Right-Fit Prospects to Target**



#### **Deep Dive on Analytic Insights**

Analytics reveal important student profile insights based on key characteristics of historical high-affinity students, including but not limited to:

- Diversity
- Personal Interests and Behaviors
- Geographic Distribution

## Your Unique Audience Insights Reveal New Patterns and Trends



# Machine Learning Finds Prospective Students

Identify the **most impactful audience**, which is tuned specifically to your student population and target market(s).



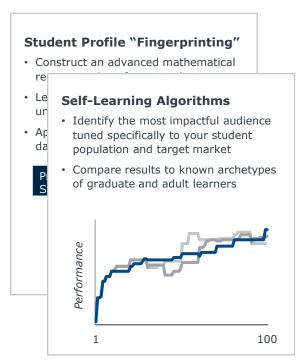
# Deep Dive on Analytic Insights

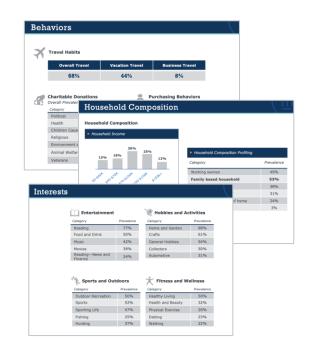
Generate a report about **your school's unique student populations**, connect your audience to known archetypes, and discuss how these findings should be used to enhance recruitment.

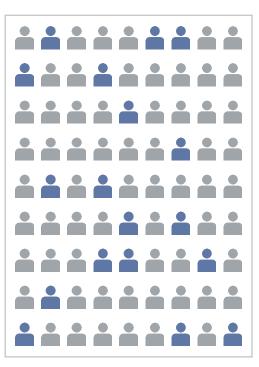


# Generate a Custom List Using Data Science

Create a custom list of student names as one piece of a **diversified lead generation strategy.** 







## Appily Advance for Graduate and Adult Programs

Reach More Prospects Through a Diversified Source of High-Quality Leads



**Appily Advance offers high-intent leads**, curated from a variety of external and proprietary sources.

Programs currently served:

- ✓ Adult degree completion
- ✓ Business (graduate)
- ✓ Certificates

- ✓ Education (graduate)
- ✓ Healthcare



## **Key Benefits of Appily Advance**

#### **Expanded Reach**

A highly diversified acquisition strategy, including paid media, SEO, and proprietary sources, helps us find and engage more prospects.

46%

**Higher response rate** compared to purchased lists, on average

#### **High-Quality Leads**

We vet student interest and capture critical lead data, enabling personalized follow-up and boosting conversion rates.

70%+

**Lower cost per lead** compared to Meta, LinkedIn, and Paid Search acquisition

#### **Campaign Speed and Integration**

Enable real-time lead flow and campaign integration with EAB's responsive marketing campaigns.

33%

Faster response time for Appily leads compared to institutional inquiry pool

## Ensure Your 'Digital Front Door' Is Open

We Elevate Your Digital Presence and Help You Capture Leads on Enrollment-Critical Pages









#### SEO Audit, Workbook, and Management

Reveal your opportunities to increase search engine visibility, drive organic traffic, and inform content strategy for all graduate pages. Quarterly management and a custom dashboard support optimization.

45%

Average increase in organic traffic after incorporating SEO recommendation on key pages



#### **Behavior Flow Assessment**

High-level SWOT analysis of the .edu graduate ecosystem from the point of view of a prospective student.

#### **Visual Content Hierarchies and Playbook**

Best practices and specific recommendations for enrollment-critical pages, including copy, assets, information architecture, SEO, and more.

+200%

Increase in web-generated clicks after implementing recommendations

48%

Average increase in session duration with improved content



#### **Integrated Lead Capture Form**

Form designed to complement your RFI form and capture data on prospective students by offering a specific purpose to engage.

2X

Higher completion rate compared to traditional registration forms

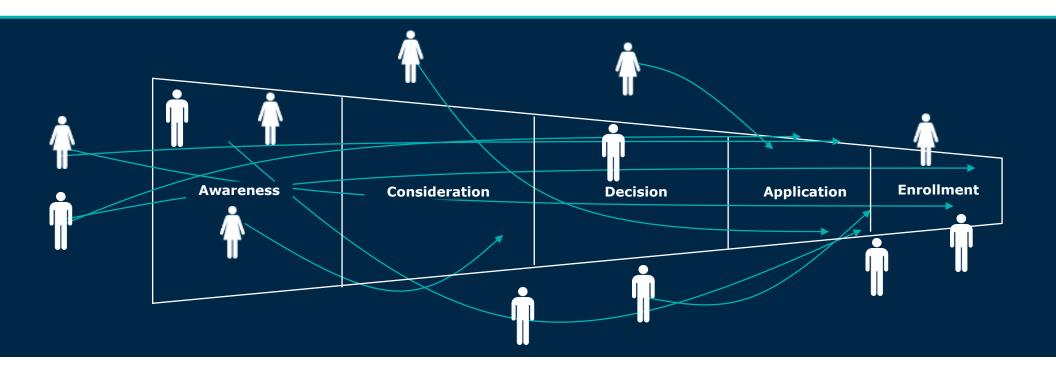


# Cultivate

Customized Campaigns to Drive Students to Application

## The Complexity of Engaging Graduate Students and Adult Learners

How Do You Recruit Them at Scale When Their Path Is Rarely Linear?



Key Questions Plague Graduate and Adult Learners—and Inform How They Engage with Your Funnel

What options do I have?

## 9 out of 10

adult learners **don't know which school** to attend when they start their journey

If I enroll, will it be worth it?

## 8 out of 10

adult learners cite **outcomesdriven motivations** for earning their degree How should I spend my time?

## 6 out of 10

adult learners apply to two or fewer schools

How will I pay for school?

## 6 out of 10

adult learners are worried about how they will pay for school

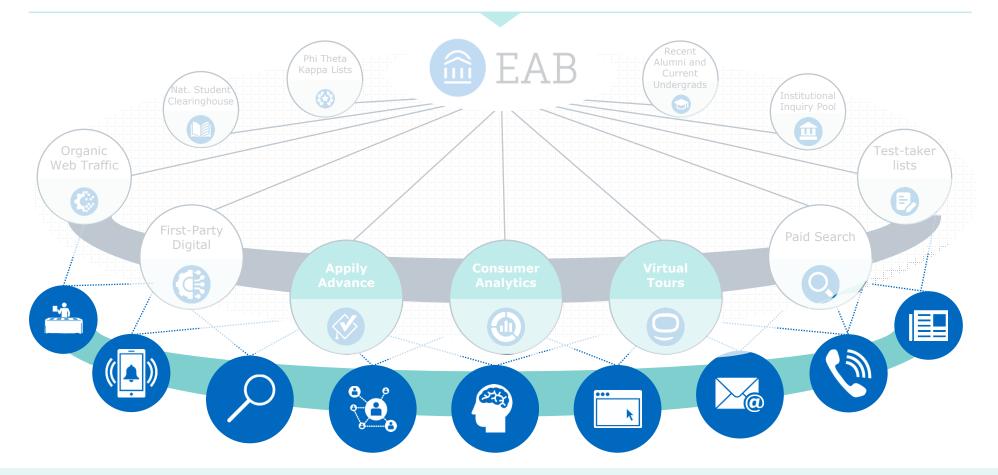
Source: EAB research and analysis

## Partnering with Your Team to Orchestrate Cohesive Marketing Strategies

Your Goals and Differentiators

**Strategy Transformation** 

Intelligent Analytics



Search Engine Optimization • Geotargeting • LinkedIn • Display Ads • Phone Calls • Micro-Surveys • Personalized Content Gives • SMS Texting

Direct Mail • Instagram • Email • Event Marketing • YouTube • Optimized Webpages • Facebook • Secret Shopping • Analytics

## Student Journeys as Unique as Each of Your Adult Learners

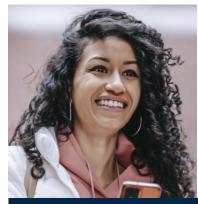


**Michael**Working parent seeking a promotion

# Michael's Six-Month Journey Nudging Needed for a Busy Parent

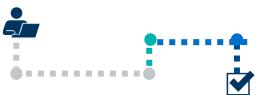


- Is served MBA U LinkedIn ad
- Indicates his concerns about balancing family and work in MBA U's short survey
- Engages with email about flexible options
- Gets personalized deadline ads and emails
- Submits his application but then gets busy and forgets to complete it
- Receives text message application nudges



**Isabella** *Gen Z seeking to finish her degree* 

**Isabella's Two-Year Journey** *From Online Research to Application* 



- Becomes aware of degree completion programs through display ads
- Clicks through to Appily Advance to explore personalized resources
- Engages with ABC U email survey
- Receives self-mailer with information tailored to survey response
- Receives application discount offer
- Submits application



**Neil** *Engaged alumnus looking to upskill* 

## **Neil's Ongoing Journey**

Interested, but Waiting for the Right Time

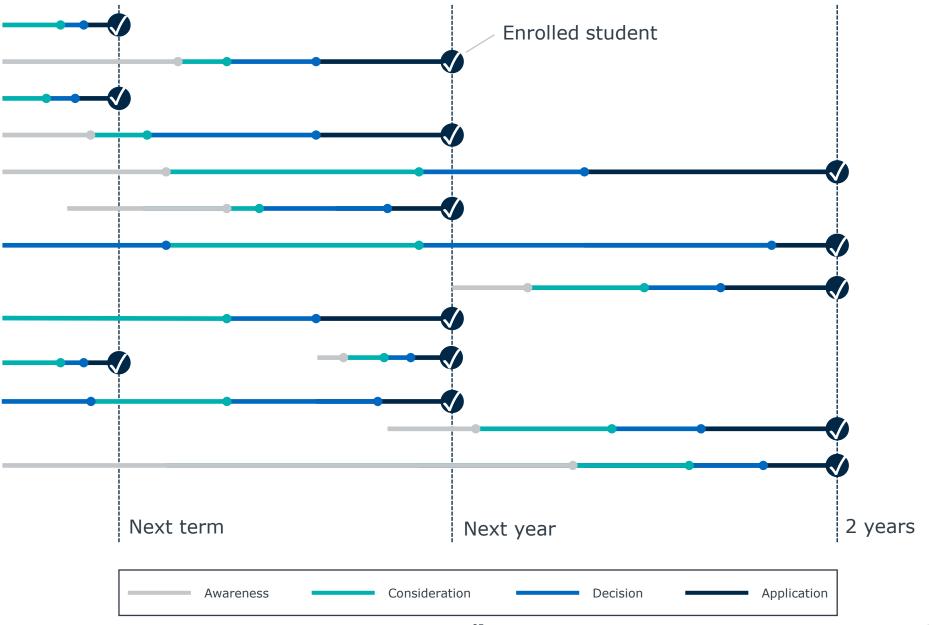


- Receives emails from his alma mater
- Registers for the GRE and engages with social media ads from his school
- Receives "good luck on the GRE" email
- Receives application deadline info and indicates a future term of enrollment
- Continues to receive periodic email updates from his school

Awareness Stage Consideration Stage Decision Stage Application Stage

## **Evergreen Marketing for Graduate and Adult Learners**

The Many Paths Your Enrolling Students Will Take Across the Next Two Years



## Integrated Solutions Offer Recruitment Upside

## **Organic Strategy**

Mega-stealth shopping makes website biggest recruitment risk



## **Paid Strategy**

Web searches a top source of information for making enrollment decisions



## **Campaign Strategy**

Brand-powered responsive marketing that moves users from awareness to decision

## **Benefits of a Connected Strategy**



#### Drive, Engage, and **Capture Organic Traffic**

- SEO Audit
- Content Strategy
- Embedded Lead Forms



#### **High-Converting, Cost-Efficient Lead Generation**

- Paid Search
- Remarketing
- Appily Advance



#### **Coordinated Marketing Ecosystem**

- Intent-Based Marketing
- Decision IQ
- Orchestration across channels:













Student Journey Marketing **Outperforms the Average**  **Campaign Response Rates** 

30%

Average increase in campaign response rate

**Leads Generated** 

Number of leads generated

**New Content Impact** 

35%

of new leads engaged with new calls to action

## Maximize Yield of Your Admitted-Student Pool

Identify Student Intentions to Triage and Target Follow-Up Outreach



## Soliciting Applicants' Feedback

Proprietary approach to surveying applicants on their enrollment intentions (and factors influencing *why*)



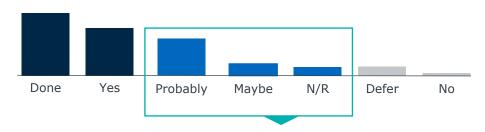
#### **EAB's Survey Campaign**

► 75%—85% average response rate



## **Predicting Who Will Enroll**

Likelihood to Enroll by Response to the Question: "Do you intend to enroll (or deposit)?"



Customized campaigns based on each student's response



## **Improving Admissions Feedback**

Online portal tracks enrollment and deposit progress by the minute



- · Track performance indicators
- · Discover student intentions
- Triage student follow-up



## **Boosting Competitive Intelligence**

Learn from non-yielding students with customized exit survey:

- · Identify key competitors
- Understand why a student chose not to enroll
- Reveal insights for more effective messaging



60%-80%

Response rate among non-enrolling admits

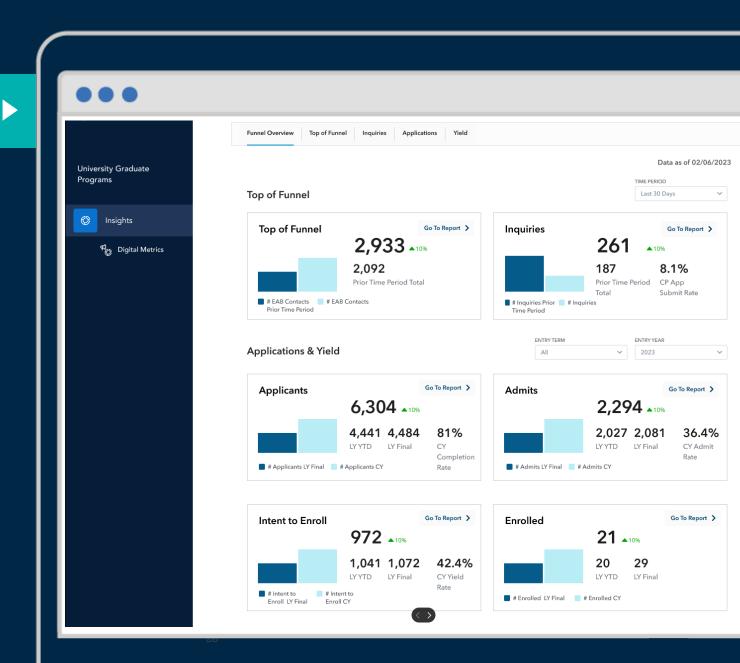
## Empowering Your Team with Data and Visibility

Our Partner Portal Provides Transparent Access to Campaign Performance Data

#### **Insights Dashboard**

- ✓ **Top-of-Funnel Reporting**View funnel conversion by
  audience sources
- ✓ Future Planning Views

  Track future audiences and inquiry builds and compare to prior year
- ✓ Full-Funnel, Year-over-Year Analytics We aggregate disparate data sources into one place to help you understand performance
- ✓ **Consultant Access**Access to EAB experts for collaboration on insights and action



## **Empowering Your Team with Data and Visibility**

Understand the Performance, Composition, and Health of Digital Marketing Campaigns

## Digital Marketing Insights Report



 ✓ Proactively Monitor Campaign Health

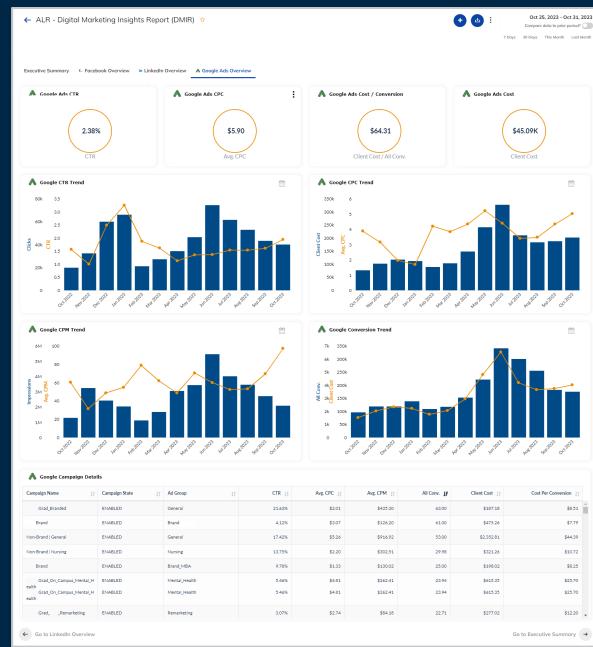
View metrics such as cost, click

View metrics such as cost, clickthrough rate, cost-per-click, and cost-per-mille

- ✓ Compare Metrics Over Time

  Analyze key metrics day over day,

  month over month, or year over year
- ✓ **Foster Conversation**Export digital marketing campaign data to spur conversation on campus
- ✓ **Consultant Access**Access to EAB experts for collaboration on insights and action





# Convert

Spotlight: Financial Aid Optimization

## Polls

QUESTION #1

## Do you currently have a merit policy in place for your graduate students?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

QUESTION #2

# If so, who is primarily responsible for deciding who receives the awards?

- Admissions
- Faculty/department
- Both
- Other please tell us in the Chat

QUESTION #3

# On a scale of 1-5, how would you rate the effectiveness of the awarding policy?

- 1 extremely ineffective
- 2
- 3
- . 1
- 5 extremely effective

31

## The Importance of Optimizing Your Graduate Financial Aid Strategy

## Students Are Making Enrollment Decisions Based on Cost and Financial Aid



#1

Financial aid/scholarships ranked as **most important factor** in students' enrollment decision



54%

of prospective graduate students
expect to have financial
aid/loans and grants



30%

of graduate and adult students who discontinued their studies did so because of the **high cost of attendance** 

## **Transforming Aid Strategy for Graduate and Professional School Partners**

Our Partners

30+

Graduate and professional schools supported

Our Team

100+

Combined years of on-campus financial aid optimization project experience

100%

of principals and senior consulting staff have on-campus, practitioner experience



## What Is Financial Aid Optimization?

Strategic allocation of institutional aid dollars to enroll a specific sized class without spending any more money than necessary.

## Leveraging Aid as a Strategic Enrollment Lever

Powered By EAB's Financial Aid Analytics Dashboard and Experts



#### **Construct Aid Models**

- ✓ Econometric, statistical models of awards
- ✓ Test adjustments to aid strategy
- ✓ Customized, transparent



#### **Design Policy Strategy**

- Rigorous data analysis of admission and financial aid data
- ✓ Policy that is focused and able to be operationalized
- ✓ Fits the mission of the institution



# Monitor Award and Yield Activity

- √ Track progress to goal
- ✓ During the cycle, identify issues that can be corrected
- ✓ Adjust policy midstream if necessary

#### **EAB Partners Receive...**



Full analysis of admit and enrolled pool



Market scan and analysis of competitor pricing and aid



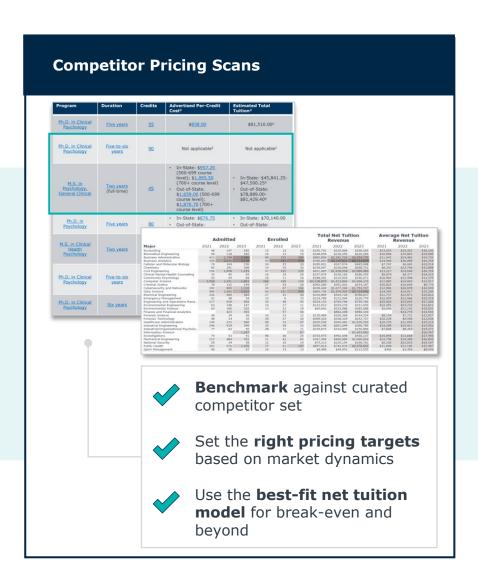
Assessment of net revenue, scholarship spending, and yield by cohort and program



Modeling to show impact of change in aid spend

## Optimize Pricing Strategy for Financial Viability and Market Advantage

Prospects Are Increasingly Making Enrollment Decisions Based on Cost—Are You Priced Competitively?





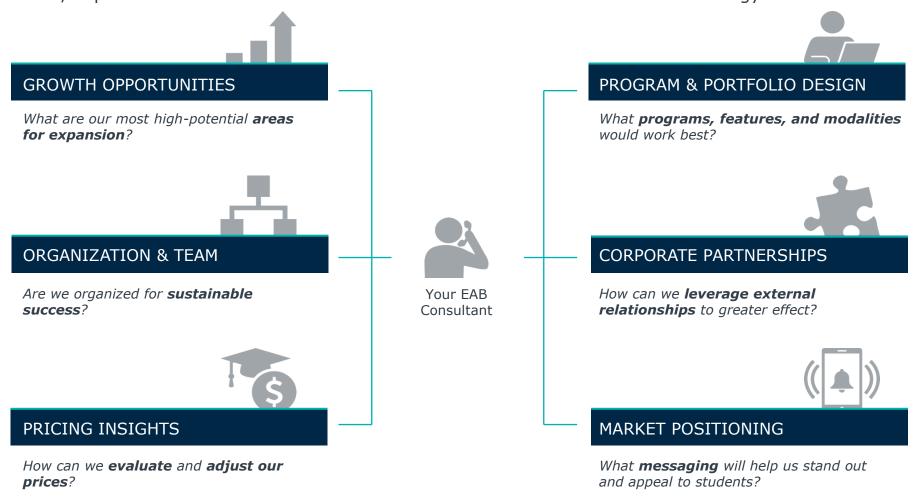


# Strategize

Identify and Build Market-Ready Programs for Competitive Advantage

## EAB Consultations Provide Customized Guidance

On-Call, Expert Guidance Across Core Areas of Graduate and Adult Enrollment Strategy



## A Library of On-Demand Resources, Unlocked on Day One

Employer Partnerships



Marketing to Adult Learners



Organizing for Growth



Credential Innovation



Online Education

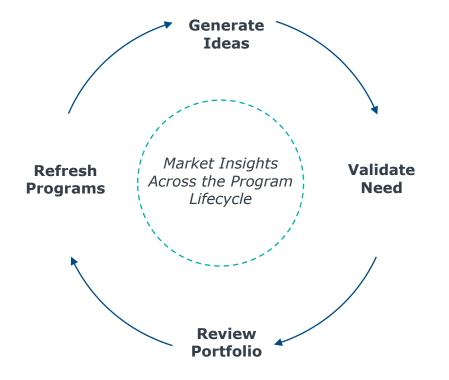


Industry Futures

## Custom Analysis to Strengthen Program and Portfolio Growth Strategy

Introducing EAB's Market Insights Service

## **EAB Supports Institutions at Every Stage of Growth**



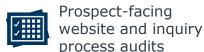
#### Rich Data Inputs and Expert Analysis Inform Every Answer

We partner with industry-leader Lightcast for real-time labor market intelligence and add analysis of:





Competitor program positioning





BLS projections,
Census data



Peer program curricula



Industry trends and literature

#### **How EAB Can Support Your Portfolio Growth Strategy**

- Surface regional market-aligned program ideas with a <u>Market</u> <u>Opportunity Scan</u>
- Find your market-aligned existing programs with a <a href="Portfolio">Portfolio</a>
  <a href="Health Check">Health Check</a>
- Refresh existing programs with a 360° Program Assessment



# What's New in 2024

## Staking a Claim in the Microcredential and Non-degree Markets

## Opportunities—and Challenges—in the Microcredential Market



Optimism About Microcredentials...



**67%** of American adults think that getting a microcredential would be worth the cost



**81%** of executives say that employees who hold microcredentials gain credibility



...And Confusion



**Only 47%** of students are familiar with digital credential programs



**40%** of students "don't know where to start" in trying to learn new skills

#### Three Steps to Win in This Market



Source: Ashburn, E., "Digital Credentials' Appeal is Strong, While Corporate Upskilling Moves at a Snail's Pace," Work Shift, February 15, 2023; D'Agostino, S., "Microcredentials Confuse Employers, Colleges, and Learners," Inside Higher Education, March 2, 2023; Strada Education Foundation, "Strada-Gallup Education Survey (2020-2021)," 2021; Greenberg, S., "Employers Are All In on Microcredentials, Survey Shows," Inside Higher Ed, February 2023; EAB interviews and analysis.

## Drive Organizational Decisions with Peer Benchmarking Data

Introducing EAB's Organizational Benchmarking Service

#### **Discover Your Peers' Approach to:**



#### **Unit Operations**

- · Financial model
- · Revenue sources and budget distribution
- · Staffing and use of external vendors



#### **Portfolio and Student Services**

- · Current offerings and pricing model
- Program launch and sunsetting practices
- Student support and services



#### **Marketing**

- · Marketing channels and associated budget
- Geographic reach
- Funnel performance

## **Use Benchmarking Results to:**



Understand annual performance **relative to peers and comparable units** 



Explore **up-to-date industry-vetted perspective** on PCO responsibilities, structures



Evaluate PCO unit annually **on consistent scale** with consolidated reporting



Accelerate stakeholders' understanding of your current state and aspirations



Use results to **advocate for resources** and make resource allocation decisions

# Exploring the Potential of **Generative AI**Pilots and Tests from Our Marketing Innovation Lab





**Hyper-Personalized Outreach**Data-driven segmentation



**Conversational Analytics**Next-generation data-mining



**Guided Experiences**User-designed virtual "tours"



**Virtual Counselor** Enhanced chatbot personalization

## Only with EAB

## **Strategy Transformation**

Craft a nimble, forward-thinking growth strategy based on custom and best practice research—guided by a dedicated team of EAB experts every step of the way.

## **Unrivaled Access**

Build your prospect pool with advantaged audience generation, direct access to a proprietary consumer database, and channels that deliver high-intent, best-fit students to your university.

## **Intelligent Analytics**

Use AI to illuminate the student journey and fuel each decision with micro and macro insights derived from digital body language, proprietary data sets, and predictive analytics.

## **Marketing Orchestration**

Drive enrollment results with choreographed, responsive marketing to keep pace with shifting student behavior and trends in the graduate and adult learner market.

## Interested in More?

## I'd like to speak with an EAB expert about...

- Identifying online, graduate, or adult education programs to launch or refresh
- 2 Optimizing graduate, online, or adult education programs for **growth**
- **3** Generating leads for graduate and online programs
- 4 Developing marketing campaigns to reach and recruit graduate and online students
- 5 Leveraging financial aid as a strategic enrollment lever





**Request slides from today's presentation** 





**Explore more partner success stories** in our Case Study Compendium





## Register for an upcoming webinar:

- June 12: Findings from our new surveys of graduate enrollment leaders
- June 18: Tactics for designing right-fit graduate and online programs



**Owen Crean** 

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EAB Adult Learner Recruitment
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Stacie Toal, Ph.D.

Principal

EAB Financial Aid Optimization

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#### **ABOUT EAB**

At EAB, our mission is to make education smarter and our communities stronger. We work with thousands of institutions to drive transformative change through data-driven insights and best-in-class capabilities. From kindergarten to college to career, EAB partners with leaders and practitioners to accelerate progress and drive results across five major areas: enrollment, student success, institutional strategy, data analytics, and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). We work with each partner differently, tailoring our portfolio of research, technology, and marketing and enrollment solutions to meet the unique needs of every leadership team, as well as the students and employees they serve. Learn more at **eab.com**.