

Peter McPherson

Peter McPherson is president of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, the nation's oldest higher education association comprised of public research universities, land-grant institutions, and university systems in all 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, four territories, Canada and Mexico.

McPherson joined APLU as president in January 2006 and brought with him a distinguished background of leadership positions in higher education, government and business. Under McPherson, APLU has emerged as the leading research, policy, and advocacy organization for public research universities with an active agenda designed to increase degree completion, advance research, and strengthen engagement. Annually, member campuses enroll 4.9 million undergraduates and 1.3 million graduate students, award 1.2 million degrees, employ 1.3 million faculty and staff, and conduct \$43.8 billion in university-based research.

At APLU, McPherson has helped lead the development of several key cross-association initiatives, including Project Degree Completion, the Student Achievement Measure, and the Voluntary System of Accountability.

He is the Co-chair of the Board of the Directors for the Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa and is the Chair of the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) of HarvestPlus. McPherson is the former Chair of the Board of Dow Jones & Company, publisher of the Wall Street Journal.

He was president of Michigan State University from 1993 through 2004. From April to October 2003, he took leave from that position and served as the Director of Economic Policy in Iraq (new currency, banks, etc.) under the Coalition Provisional Authority.

In the years prior to being named president of Michigan State University, McPherson was a Group Executive Vice President with the Bank of America. While at Bank of America (B of A), he was responsible for the B of A's banks in Latin American and Canada and later its trust and private banking business. He was also chair of the U.S. banking community's advisory board on the negotiation of NAFTA.

In the 1980s, McPherson was Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Treasury, the number two position at Treasury. In that position he was one of three U.S. negotiators in the final weeks of the U.S. Canadian Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

In the 1980s he was also the Administrator of the Agency for International Development and Chair of the board of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

In the 1970s, McPherson practiced international tax law and was the managing partner of the Washington office of a large Ohio law firm. He was also a Special Assistant to President Gerald Ford at the White House.

McPherson earned a B.A. in political science from Michigan State University, an M.B.A. from Western Michigan University and a J.D. from American University Law School. He has received several honorary doctorates. McPherson was a Peace Corps volunteer in Peru in the 1960s.