



2023 TIAA Institute Theodore M. Hesburgh Award

For Leadership Excellence
in Higher Education

Honoring Christina H. Paxson
President, Brown University



“Under President Paxson’s leadership, Brown University has grown into a premier center of innovation, advanced its commitment to inclusion and access, and fueled economic development through community and government partnerships. She has made a first-rate institution even stronger—to the benefit of countless stakeholders worldwide.”

Surya Kolluri
Head, TIAA Institute





Honoring Christina H. Paxson President, Brown University

2023 Recipient of the TIAA Institute Theodore M. Hesburgh
Award for Leadership Excellence in Higher Education

Soon after being appointed Brown University's nineteenth president in 2012, Christina Paxson put forth an ambitious strategic plan designed to keep Brown at the forefront of teaching and research. It called for connecting top scholars to complex 21st-century challenges, fostering innovation in undergraduate education, promoting inclusion and access, and supporting community development. The plan's impact is now evident.

In the decade since President Paxson's arrival, Brown has grown stronger financially, operationally and academically. Through major investments in faculty, departments and facilities, the 259-year-old institution has made meaningful advancements in the arts, humanities and sciences, generating breakthrough research discoveries and ranking among the top student Fulbright scholarship producers in the U.S. for seven consecutive years.

Increasing access. Supporting growth.

Brown's research and teaching innovations, fueled by record-setting years of philanthropic support and endowment performance, are notable outcomes of President Paxson's leadership. Equally important are her visionary initiatives to increase access to a Brown education and expand the university's value to its home city of Providence, Rhode Island. The results of these efforts have been felt numerous ways:

- Brown created one of the first student centers for undocumented, low-income and first-generation college students, and its ***Pathways to Diversity and Inclusion*** action plan has garnered international attention for its success in prioritizing resources for students from historically underrepresented groups.
- To become **more accessible to talented students from all socioeconomic groups**, Brown has replaced loans in financial aid packages with grants that do not have to be repaid, provided health insurance scholarships as part of its aid to uninsured students, given free textbooks to its lowest-income students, and followed a need-blind admissions process for all domestic undergraduate students and veterans.
- Brown has **funded a \$10 million endowment to aid Providence public schools** and works closely with the local school district and community partners to address students' needs in alignment with the university's mission of education and research. The university has also worked to improve the quality of health care for Rhode Islanders and patients across the greater region.

"I am honored to receive this award celebrating the legacy of Father Hesburgh and his commitment to education and service. This award is reflective of Brown's mission to make a positive impact on the community, the nation and the world by advancing knowledge and understanding and preparing students to address the world's most pressing challenges."

Christina H. Paxson
President, Brown University

- Brown is the anchor tenant in **South Street Landing**, a \$220 million redevelopment project in downtown Providence's Jewelry District, and the university's collaboration with government, industry and local businesses has brought new life to a neighborhood underused for decades.
- A partnership led by Brown, the University of Rhode Island and two global startup accelerators received state funding to **boost the commercialization of research at Rhode Island universities**, resulting in one of the state's newly created innovation campuses.

Freedom of expression

Higher education in recent years has been portrayed as intolerant of diverse points of view, and President Paxson, perhaps as much as anyone, has worked to change that perception by taking a public stance on the value of free expression. Believing that academic freedom is critical to protecting a university's ability to advance education and scholarship, she has been an outspoken advocate for expanding modes of inquiry on campus and promoting diversity of thought—while ensuring all Brown students understand the nuances of a university's purpose and benefits to society at large.



Looking ahead

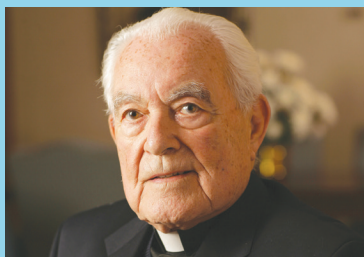
Building on its storied history, Brown has bold ambitions for the future. It seeks to advance its position as a premier research university, increasing its footprint in data science, brain science, education, entrepreneurship, public health, arts, humanities and other disciplines. At the same time, it remains committed to providing an unrivalled undergraduate experience and is working to expand students' experiential learning opportunities inside and outside the classroom.

Brown's current capital projects reflect these goals. A new integrated life sciences building will create state-of-the-art laboratory space for researchers solving pressing health-related challenges. The university is also nearing completion of the Lindemann Performing Arts Center, an 80,000-square-foot facility that will anchor a future campus arts district and be used for music, theater and dance performances, education and research.

In short, Brown under President Paxson has fortified its standing as a world-class research and educational institution—while readying itself to seize enormous opportunities ahead.



About the award



Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh
President Emeritus, University of Notre Dame

The Hesburgh Award is named in honor of the Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., past president of the University of Notre Dame and longtime member of the TIAA and CREF Boards of Overseers. A world-renowned educator and humanitarian, Father Hesburgh (1917-2015) was a lifelong champion of human rights, the cause of peace, and care for the poor. He received both the Congressional Gold Medal and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

As a tribute to Father Hesburgh's lasting legacy, the TIAA Institute grants the Hesburgh Award to a current college or university president or chancellor who embodies Father Hesburgh's commitment to higher education and the world at large. The American Council on Education administers the award on the Institute's behalf, and recipients are chosen by an independent panel of judges.

About the TIAA Institute

Since 1998, the TIAA Institute has helped advance the ways individuals and institutions plan for financial security and organizational effectiveness. The Institute conducts in-depth research, provides access to a network of thought leaders, and enables those it serves to anticipate trends, plan future strategies and maximize opportunities for success. To learn more, visit www.tiaainstitute.org and follow us on Twitter @TIAAInstitute.

About TIAA

TIAA is a leading provider of secure retirements and outcome-focused investment solutions to millions of people and thousands of institutions. It is the #1 not-for-profit retirement market provider¹, paid more than \$6.4 billion in lifetime income to retired clients in 2021 and has \$1.2 trillion in assets under management (as of 12/31/2022)².

About Brown University

Founded in 1764, Brown is a leading research university home to world-renowned faculty, and an innovative Ivy League educational institution where the curiosity, creativity and intellect of students drives academic excellence. Brown is a place where rigorous scholarship, complex problem-solving and service to the public good are defined by intense collaboration, intellectual discovery and working in ways that transcend traditional boundaries. As a private, nonprofit institution, the University advances its mission through support from a community invested in Brown's commitment to advance knowledge and make a positive difference locally and globally.

¹ As of July 21, 2022. Based on data in PLANSPONSOR's 403(b) 2022 DC Recordkeeping Survey, combined 457 and 403(b) data.

² As of December 31, 2022 assets under management across Nuveen Investments affiliates and TIAA investment management teams are \$1.2 trillion.