



American Higher  
Education Alliance



# American Higher Education Alliance (AHEA) and Consortium for North American Higher Education Collaboration (CONAHEC) Strategic Alliance Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

## What is American Higher Education Alliance?

American Higher Education Alliance, or AHEA, is a non-profit organization founded with the mission to drive equity in higher education by connecting the global community through international collaboration and learning experiences. Through partnerships with colleges, universities and higher education serving organizations, we contribute to the development of future leaders worldwide through internationalized education, lifelong learning, and universal credentialing.

## What is the purpose of the strategic alliance between AHEA and CONAHEC?

AHEA and CONAHEC recognize the attributes of, and growing opportunities in, virtual education and partnerships. Together we will expand the ability for college and university faculty to network and partner in the creation of international courses delivered through virtual exchanges. Additionally, through the use of the InspirED™ platform provided by AHEA, we will increase diversity and internationalize classrooms at little to no cost to the institution.

## Do I have to be a member of AHEA to participate in the benefits offered to CONAHEC Members?

Yes. CONAHEC members interested in using the InspirED platform, participating in the AHEA+CONAHEC Virtual International Partnerships (VIP) Program, and taking advantage of the other exclusive benefits for CONAHEC member institutions must join AHEA.

## What membership levels are available, and what does it cost to join AHEA?

AHEA has two membership levels, individual and institutional. Up to 30 people from a single institution may join under the individual level. At 31 members or more, we consider this an institutional level membership.

Individual *and* institutional memberships to AHEA are **complimentary for 2022**. That means instructors, international officers, and academic administrators from any institution can utilize AHEA's exclusive CONAHEC benefits for free, all year.

Beginning January 1, 2023, individual memberships will remain complimentary. The institutional level membership will cost a nominal fee of 10 cents (USD) per user, per month, or institutions may apply for the InspirED Educators Grant to determine if they qualify to continue their membership on a complimentary basis.

## What are the benefits of joining AHEA?

AHEA provides our members with a variety of benefits, including

- Collaboration and networking on an international level
- Professional development resources
- Benchmarking and data services
- Grants and scholarships to assist with professional collaboration and engagement
- Use of the InspirED™ platform for creating and teaching courses, certificates and curriculum.

A more detailed explanation of these benefits may be found at <https://www.ahealliance.org/CONAHEC>.

## Are there any additional benefits for CONAHEC members that join AHEA?

Yes! We are pleased to offer individuals and institutions from CONAHEC these additional benefits:

### ***Virtual International Partnership (VIP) Program***

The VIP program is designed to match faculty with one another and provide structured mentoring and professional development resources to create and deliver virtual, international courses. CONAHEC members participating in the VIP program will have free access to AHEA's 'Going Global: Empowering Virtual Exchange with the InspirED™ Platform' eLearning course, and will also engage in thematic professional development webinars covering COIL/Virtual Exchange topics. Participants in the VIP Program will be recognized with a certificate upon completion of the program.

### ***Teach Online Courses through BlendED™ LMS***

AHEA offers every individual faculty member the opportunity to teach one course per term to an unlimited number of students for free through our BlendED™ LMS. This provides the perfect opportunity for you to add a virtual cross-cultural component to on-campus courses and enables an institution-neutral 'third space' in which to teach your new virtual exchange course globally.

### **CONAHEC Digital Badge**

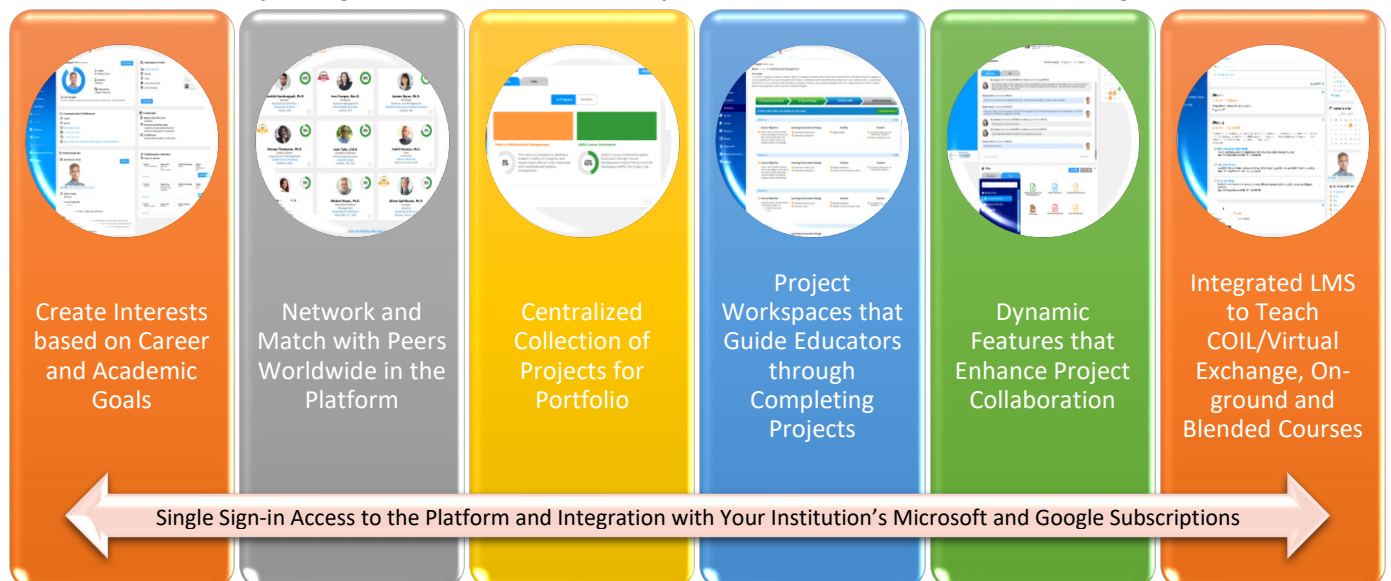
Members from CONAHEC institutions will have a digital CONAHEC badge added to their profile in the InspirED platform. This badge provides a quick visual identification of other CONAHEC members and enables easier networking and collaboration between members.

### **CONAHEC Member Forum**

Exclusively for faculty and administrators from CONAHEC member institutions, this discussion forum provides a space to discuss virtual international partnerships, ideate about collaborations, discuss course development methodologies, and seek support from CONAHEC. The CONAHEC Member Forum is moderated by CONAHEC staff.

## What is the InspirED platform?

InspirED is an integrated, cloud-based, mobile ready platform focused on faculty and their students. In short, by using InspirED, members may network, collaborate and teach together.



Recorded demonstrations of InspirED may be found on our website at <https://www.ahealliance.org/demo-library/>.

## Can I learn more about AHEA and the InspirED platform prior to joining?

Yes. We are offering the 'AHEA Welcome and InspirED™ Platform Demonstration' session for CONAHEC members. During this online event, participants will learn about AHEA and how to:

- Identify colleagues with similar professional interests build and expand international partnerships
- Collaborate to develop Virtual Exchange/COIL courses
- Teach your VE course through the InspirED platform
- Leverage all the exclusive benefits of AHEA, network with peers around the world and contribute to the body of knowledge through our Forums, Best Practices and more

This session is being offered on Tuesday May 3, 2022 at 2:00 pm (US) eastern. To register, please visit <https://www.ahealliance.org/CONAHEC>. This session will be recorded and made available for CONAHEC members who cannot participate in a live demonstration.

## How do I join AHEA and begin using my complimentary membership?

To become a member, go to <https://www.ahealliance.org/join-ahea/> to complete and submit your individual member application. All applicants will receive a series of emails noting when the application has been submitted, reviewed and approved. Then you will be provided with your credentials to the InspiRED™ platform and you may begin taking advantage of features and resources available to you, including your exclusive CONAHEC benefits.

1. Complete and submit the online Individual Membership Application using the URL noted above.
2. Our AHEA team will review your responses and reach back with any questions.
3. Once your application has been approved, you will receive a confirmation email as well as an email from the InspiRED platform that includes your User ID and temporary password.
4. Take advantage of all your member benefits on an annual basis through December 31 of each year.
5. Interested in having your institution join AHEA for free? Contact Clayton Harrington, Vice President for Institutional Relations at [charrington@healliance.org](mailto:charrington@healliance.org).

## Who may I contact with any additional questions before I apply?

We welcome your questions and want to make sure you have sufficient information about this strategic alliance between AHEA and CONAHEC before you apply. You may contact Clayton Harrington, Vice President for Institutional Relations at [charrington@healliance.org](mailto:charrington@healliance.org).