The Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (CUMU) is the longest-running and largest organization committed to serving and connecting the world's urban and metropolitan universities and their partners. CUMU focuses on strengthening institutions that are developing new responses to the pressing educational, economic and social issues of the day. Our members share a passion for collaboration, student access and success, community development and revitalization, and discovery and innovation in teaching, learning and research that enhance the knowledge resources that support advancement in higher education and our cities.

CUMU's purpose is to facilitate the exchange of information among its members about urban and metropolitan issues; create a unified approach to resolving its members' common challenges; and perpetuate a better understanding among policy makers, the higher education community and the public about the distinctive roles played by urban and metropolitan universities in their communities.

CUMU is headquartered at Towson University. The university was an original founder of the Coalition in 1989 and remains committed to the values of the organization. The headquarters manages the organization's events, communications, finances and operations in addition to serving as liaison to the coalition's partners.