

June 9, 2016

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Vice Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chairman  
Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cochran, Vice Chairwoman Mikulski, Chairman Blunt, and Ranking Member Murray:

We write on behalf of the nation's community colleges and their students on the FY 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill.

The legislation's reinstatement of the year round Pell Grant is a major public policy achievement for which we wish to communicate our strong support. We are particularly pleased that, as we understand it, the year-round Pell Grant will be broadly available to our diverse student population and straightforward to administer on campus. Enactment of this provision should increase student persistence and completion. Its projected cost is small in relation to its likely benefits.

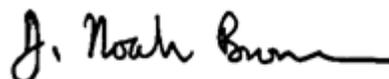
We urge the committee to work to reverse the rescission to the Pell Grant surplus as the appropriations process moves forward, and retain this essential support for federal student aid. We also remain focused on ensuring that the numerous essential programs contained in this legislation receive adequate support.

Our campuses are cheered at the overdue restoration of the year-round Pell Grant as fashioned in your legislation and look forward to working with you to craft a final funding bill for FY 2017 that provides the best possible outcome for students.

Yours sincerely,



Walter G. Bumphus  
AACC President and CEO



J. Noah Brown  
ACCT President and CEO