



OVERVIEW OF THE 2021- 2022 COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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AGENDA

- Welcome
- Lay of the Land on Capitol Hill
- Possible Action Items for the 117th Congress and the Biden Administration
- Overview of ACCT and AACCC's Joint Legislative Agenda for the 117th Congress (2021-2022)
 - ✓ Federal Pell Grants
 - ✓ Additional Student Financial Aid and Institutional Aid
 - ✓ HEA Reauthorization
 - ✓ Basic Needs Services and Support for Student Veterans
 - ✓ Workforce Development and Infrastructure
 - ✓ DREAM Act and Immigration Policy
 - ✓ Higher Education Tax Benefits

LAY OF THE LAND ON CAPITOL HILL — HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- **222 Democrats, 211 Republicans**
- **House Leadership**
 - ✓ Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)
 - ✓ Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (D-CA)
- **Education and Labor Committee**
 - ✓ Chair: Bobby Scott (D-VA)
 - ✓ Ranking Member: Virginia Foxx (R-NC)
- **House Appropriations Committee**
 - ✓ Chair: Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)
 - ✓ Ranking Member: Kay Granger (R-TX)
 - ✓ LHHS Subcommittee Chair: Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)
 - ✓ LHHS Subcommittee Chair: Tom Cole (R-OK)



LAY OF THE LAND ON CAPITOL HILL – SENATE

- **50 Democrats, 50 Republicans** (Vice President-elect Harris will be the tie-breaking vote)
- **Senate Leadership**
 - ✓ Majority Leader: Chuck Schumer (D-NY)
 - ✓ Minority Leader: Mitch McConnell (R-KY)
- **HELP Committee**
 - ✓ Chair: Patty Murray (D-WA)
 - ✓ Ranking Member: ?
- **Senate Appropriations Committee**
 - ✓ Chair: Patrick Leahy (D-VT)
 - ✓ Ranking Member: Richard Shelby (R-AL)
 - ✓ LHHS Subcommittee Chair: Patty Murray (D-WA)
 - ✓ LHHS Ranking Member: Roy Blunt (R-MO)



POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS FOR THE 117TH CONGRESS

■ Funding Bills

- ✓ Budget Reconciliation
- ✓ Appropriations – FY2022
- ✓ Debt Ceiling Vote (current ceiling expires July 2021)
- ✓ Additional Pandemic Relief/Recovery Funding

■ Other Legislation

- ✓ Higher Education Act Reauthorization
- ✓ Infrastructure Package
- ✓ DACA-related legislation
- ✓ Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Reauthorization



POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

- **Reversal of current regulations**

- Title IX regulations
- Restrictions on international students

- **Reinstatement of policies rolled back by Trump Administration**

- DACA program
- Borrower defense to repayment
- Gainful employment rule

- **New initiatives**

- Student loan forgiveness
- Tuition-free community college



JOINT LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE 117TH CONGRESS

- Every two years, ACCT and AACC release a **joint legislative agenda** that outlines federal policy priorities for community colleges
- The agenda covers a range of **policy issues** that impact community colleges and the students they serve
- The agenda is typically released in advance of the annual Community College National Legislative Summit (NLS), which will take place virtually this year from **Feb 8-10**
- The agenda can help NLS attendees **prepare to advocate** on behalf of their institutions and students during virtual meetings with Members of Congress and the Administration



FEDERAL PELL GRANTS

- Preserve and enhance the Federal Pell Grant program by:
 - ✓ **Extending Pell Grant eligibility** to short-term education and training programs that are at least 150 clock hours over 8 weeks of instruction
 - ✓ **Increasing the maximum Pell Grant** annually to maintain its purchasing power
 - ✓ **Increasing lifetime Pell eligibility** to 14 semesters (FTE)
 - ✓ **Note on Second Chance Pell** - The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSA), which was signed into law on December 27, 2020, restored access to Pell Grants for incarcerated students



ADDITIONAL STUDENT AND INSTITUTIONAL AID

- Increase funding for federal student financial aid and institutional aid programs **that help ensure student success**, including:
 - ✓ Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (**FSEOG**) and Federal Work Study (**FWS**) programs
 - ✓ **TRIO, GEAR UP, CCAMPIS** and other student support programs
 - ✓ Strengthening Institutions Program (**SIP**)
 - ✓ HEA Title III and V programs that support **HBCUs, HSIs, TCUs, and other MSIs**



HIGHER EDUCATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION

- Student Financing, Access and Affordability
 - ✓ Create a **federal-state partnership** to support tuition-free community college
 - ✓ Reform **FSEOG and FWS allocation formulas** to ensure funds go to students most in need
 - ✓ Support responsible **student borrowing**
 - ✓ Restore Title IV aid eligibility to students who have demonstrated an **ability to benefit**
- *Note – In addition to Second Chance Pell, CRRSA contained FAFSA simplification provisions and changes to the needs analysis system



HIGHER EDUCATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION, CONT'D

- Institutional Accountability and Student Success
 - ✓ Create a federal **student unit record system**
 - ✓ Replace current **Cohort Default Rate (CDR)** with a metric that reflects rates of student borrowing
 - ✓ Reject **risk sharing** proposals
 - ✓ Support an independent **accreditation process**
- Innovation and Compliance
 - ✓ Streamline federal **reporting and disclosure** requirements
 - ✓ **Encourage innovations** in higher education, including CBE, dual enrollment and guided pathways
 - ✓ Uphold certain student protections, including the **90/10 rule**



BASIC NEEDS SERVICES & SUPPORT FOR STUDENT VETERANS

- Enact policies that allow students to access **basic needs services**, including food, housing, medical care, mental health services and child care
- Remove barriers to the **SNAP program** for postsecondary students
- Fund programs that help institutions **meet the needs** of veteran students
- Ensure **active-duty personnel** and their families can participate in community college programs
- Enact reforms that can help veterans choose the educational program best suited to their needs and **prevent their exploitation**



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Increase funding for the **Strengthening Community College Training Grants** (SCCTG) program
- Increase funding for **CTE state grants and WIOA programs**
- **Adequately fund** programs addressing rural education, rural healthcare, renewable energy, and rural workforce development
- Ensure community colleges and their students can access technology equipment and **high-speed broadband** internet access
- Ensure a portion of any **federal infrastructure package** is dedicated to community college facilities and workforce training programs



DREAM ACT, IMMIGRATION POLICY, AND INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

- Enact legislation that would establish a **pathway to citizenship** for students who entered the US as minors.
- **Eliminate federal restrictions** on in-state tuition for undocumented students and make DREAM Act students eligible for federal financial aid.
- Ensure Title IV student aid programs are not included in the “**public charge**” test.
- **Improve the F1 student visa approval process** to ensure all international students can access U.S. education and training programs.
- Increase funding for the **HEA Title VI and Fulbright Hays** international education programs.



HIGHER EDUCATION TAX BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS

- Improve the **Lifetime Learning Credit** for community college students by covering 100% of the first \$2,000 of expenses for technical education programs
- Enhance the targeting of the **American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC)** on students with the greatest financial need and increase the refundable portion of the credit
- Ensure that Pell Grant recipients fully qualify for the AOTC by **making Pell Grants non-taxable**



THANK YOU!

- Join us at the **2021 Virtual Community College National Legislative Summit!**

- ✓ Register here: <https://www.nls.acct.org/>
- ✓ Access the NLS planning guide and other resources here: <https://www.nls.acct.org/preparing-for-the-nls>

- For **more resources**, visit us at:

- ✓ www.acct.org/advocacy
- ✓ <https://www.aacc.nche.edu/advocacy/>

