

July 10, 2013

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

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

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

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski, Vice Chairman Shelby, Chairman Harkin, and Ranking Member Moran:

On behalf of America's community college leadership, the American Association of Community Colleges (AACCC) and the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) want to express our support for the Subcommittee's FY 2014 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill. We greatly appreciate the investments this bill makes in postsecondary education and workforce training programs.

As the economy continues to recover, students of all ages are seeking to enhance their skills and career readiness. With more than 13 million students enrolling annually in community colleges, federal investments in student aid and institutional support are making a significant difference. Federal support remains critical to our institutions, as we seek to graduate more students in high-need areas.

AACC and ACCT support the Senate's proposed funding allocation for FY 2014.

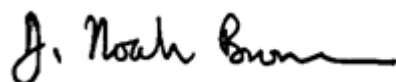
The Senate bill provides funding for many community college priorities, including the Pell Grant program. Given the importance of this program to the more than 3.4 million community college students who rely on it to help pay their college expenses each year, we are pleased that the Subcommittee bill preserves discretionary funding for Pell while providing a mandatory inflation adjustment that will boost the Pell Grant maximum next year.

We understand the need for fiscal restraint during these challenging economic times, but we believe that investments in our education and workforce system are vital to the nation's long-term strength and prosperity. Thank you for your consideration and support of these critical programs.

Sincerely,



Walter G. Bumphus
AACC President and CEO



J. Noah Brown
ACCT President and CEO