

2019 COMMUNITY COLLEGE FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

STRENGTHEN PELL GRANTS

SHORT-TERM PELL GRANTS

[Expand Eligibility for Students Enrolled in Short-Term, Workforce-Oriented Programs](#)

- Short-term programs allow students to quickly and cost-effectively increase their skills and earning potential.

INCREASE THE PELL GRANT MAXIMUM AWARD

[Index Pell Grants to Inflation](#)

- Increasing the maximum Pell Grant award helps ensure that low-income students can attend college, while reducing the need for borrowing.

SECOND CHANCE PELL GRANTS

[Facilitate Postsecondary Education for Qualified Incarcerated Individuals](#)

- Under the Department of Education's experimental sites initiative, 65 colleges currently offer Pell Grants to incarcerated individuals seeking a postsecondary credential. Congress should overturn the ban on Pell for this population to increase the likelihood of employment after release and reduce long-term recidivism.

INVEST IN EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FUNDING FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

[Investments in Education and Training Generate Social and Economic Dividends](#)

- Congress must allocate funds to the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education subcommittee that will allow for the necessary support for key community college programs. This can only be achieved by raising the non-defense discretionary spending cap in FY 2020.

SUPPORT STUDENT ACCESS AND SUCCESS

[Pell Grants, SEOG, Federal Work Study, TRIO, GEAR UP, CCAMPIS](#)

- Strengthen the Pell Grant program by providing additional aid to students and provide additional funding for the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG), Federal Work-Study, TRIO, GEAR UP, and Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) programs.

STRENGTHEN UNDER-RESOURCED INSTITUTIONS

[Minority Serving Institutions, HBCUs, Tribal Colleges, Strengthening Institutions](#)

- Increase funding for institutional aid programs, including: Title III-A Strengthening Institutions program; Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities; the Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions programs; and other programs serving traditionally underrepresented populations.

BOLSTER JOB TRAINING AND CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

[Adult Basic Education, Perkins CTE, WIOA, ATE](#)

- Increase funding for Perkins Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, Adult Basic and Literacy Education state grants, state grants under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), and NSF's Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program to provide needed support in these areas.

REAUTHORIZE THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

OPPOSE NEW RISK SHARING PENALTIES

Oppose Federal Financial Penalties Based on Borrowing, Student Aid, or Outcomes

Community colleges simply do not have the resources to absorb new federal financial penalties. Implementation of risk sharing at community colleges would inevitably result in either increased costs or reduced educational services to students.

REDUCE DEBT FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS

Improve Federal Student Loans and Campus-Based Aid

Link loan limits to enrollment intensity as well as degree and program type. Maintain subsidized federal loans for low-income students. The allocation formulas for Federal Work-Study and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants should ensure that needy students at all institutions have equitable access to funds.

ENHANCE TRANSPARENCY AND DATA

Create a National Student Unit Record Data System to Track Completion and Earnings

An effectively implemented, secure unit record data system would reduce administrative costs as well as produce more relevant and comprehensive data than are currently generated.

SUPPORT DREAMERS

ASSIST STUDENTS IMPACTED BY THE DACA RESCISSION

Enact the Dream Act to Provide Dreamers with Permanent Legal Status

The Dream Act provides a path to citizenship for undocumented young people, including the thousands of students currently enrolled in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. These individuals were brought to the U.S. as minors and frequently have no ties to the countries from which they came. The administration's DACA rescission (which has been blocked by federal courts) leaves thousands of young people, including many students, in a precarious status. The Dream Act is needed to permanently enable them to reach their full potential, benefitting the entire nation in the process.