



May 8, 2019

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee

Dear Chairwomen Lowey and DeLauro and Ranking Members Granger and Cole:

On behalf of the nation's 1,051 community colleges, the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) strongly support the FY 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill the committee is marking up today.

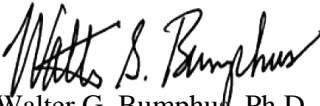
We are particularly excited by the new Strengthening Community College Training Grants (SCCTG) program. The \$150 million SCCTG program will build on the progress made by the Community-Based Job Training Grants and the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grants, helping community colleges work with key partners to implement workforce education programs that meet the needs businesses and workers.

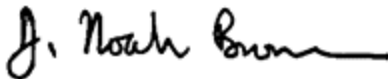
We also strongly support the \$150 increase of the Pell Grant maximum award. Each year, Pell Grants support nearly 2.5 million community college students, providing them essential assistance to access and succeed in higher education. This increase will ensure that the financially neediest students do not lose ground to inflation.

The bill increases investments in many other important programs, including the Child Care Access Means Parents in School program, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, Federal Work Study, TRIO, GEAR UP, Department of Labor job training and apprenticeship grants, Centers of Excellence for Veteran Student Success, and more.

We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to ensure these crucial investments in higher education and job training programs are included in final legislation.

Sincerely,


Walter G. Bumphus, Ph.D.
AACC President and CEO


J. Noah Brown
ACCT President and CEO