



August 12, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Congressional Leaders:

On behalf of the nation's community colleges, we urge you to do everything possible to quickly enact supplemental appropriations legislation to support community colleges and their students as they cope with the pandemic. COVID-19 has created drastic challenges on our campuses that the federal government has an irreplaceable role in redressing—costs have increased while revenues, including state and local government support, have plummeted. Institutions face an uncertain fall, as enrollments are expected to be significantly below those of recent years.

Our priorities remain straightforward and consistent and are based on student and institutional needs created by the pandemic. They include:

- An absolute minimum of \$46.6 billion in financial support for higher education institutions, a figure that is substantially below current needs, with funds distributed on the basis of student headcount;
- Support for programs directed at minority-serving institutions and others serving high percentages of needy students;
- Dedicated job training funds, which are used effectively when provided directly to campuses working in partnership with local business and their public workforce partners to ensure economic benefit;
- Liability protection for colleges that make every effort to provide a safe environment for students, faculty, staff, and administrators.



Community colleges remain an essential part of our economy and society. Full recovery from the ongoing pandemic is not possible without vibrant community colleges. We urge you to make these institutions and students a priority during this difficult time.

Please let us know what we can do to help you in your efforts. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

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

J. Noah Brown
ACCT President and CEO

Alabama Community College System
Arkansas Community Colleges
Association of Florida Colleges
California Community Colleges
Community and Technical College System of West Virginia
Community College Association of Texas Trustees
Community College League of California
Community College of Rhode Island
Community College System of New Hampshire
Connecticut State Colleges and Universities
Illinois Community College Board
Illinois Community College Trustees Association
Iowa Association of Community College Trustees
Ivy Tech Community College
Kansas Association of Community College Trustees
Kentucky Community and Technical College System
Louisiana Community and Technical College System
Maine Community College System
Maryland Association of Community Colleges
Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges
Michigan Community College Association
Mississippi Community College Board
Missouri Community College Association
Nebraska Community College Association
Nevada System of Higher Education



New Jersey Council of Community Colleges
New Mexico Association of Community Colleges
New York Community College Trustees
North Carolina Association of Community College Trustees
North Carolina Community College System
Ohio Association of Community Colleges
Oregon Community College Association
Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges
South Carolina Association of Technical College Commissioners
South Carolina Technical College System
Technical College Directors' Association of Georgia
Tennessee Board of Regents
Texas Association of Community Colleges
Utah System of Higher Education
Virginia Community College System
Washington State Association of College Trustees
Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges
Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association
Wisconsin Technical College System
Wyoming Association of Community College Trustees
Wyoming Community College Commission

