September 29, 2009

The Honorable George Miller  
Chairman  
Committee on Education and Labor  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2205 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-0507

Dear Congressman Miller:

On behalf the nation’s 1,200 community colleges and their more than 12 million students, I want to thank you for your leadership in achieving House passage of the “Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act.” This truly landmark legislation has generated intense interest and enthusiasm on our campuses. While our members are understandably focused on the historic American Graduation Initiative, they appreciate the other tremendously important features of this legislation, particularly its guaranteed increases in the Pell Grant program and FAFSA simplification. Both of these changes will benefit enormously the lower-income students that disproportionately attend our colleges.

Community college CEOs are committed to ensuring that the support provided through the American Graduation Initiative is used effectively and results in the goals articulated by you and President Obama. Community colleges certainly recognize that, even at this time of severe fiscal distress, they need to ensure that all students who wish to graduate from their institutions are given the academic and related support they need to do so. The challenge is substantial, but the need is even more pressing.

We thank you again for shepherding this sweeping legislation through the House and stand ready to work with you and your dedicated staff in securing its enactment. Please let us know what else we can do to help.

Sincerely,

George R. Boggs  
President and CEO

cc: Helen Benjamin  
Scott Lay  
Jack Scott