



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES



July 21, 2009

Statement on the H.R. 3221, The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009

American Association of Community Colleges
and
Association of Community College Trustees

On behalf the presidents and trustees of the nation's more than 1,200 community colleges, we commend Chairman George Miller and the House Committee on Education and Labor for their foresight in providing desperately needed funding for community college modernization and programs. Community colleges all across the country stand ready to meet the challenge given to them by President Obama to increase program completion and graduation rates. Our colleges are also the "economic engines" that will assist in the nation's economic recovery. In order to accomplish the ambitious but important goals set out for them, community colleges will need the support that will be provided by this historic legislation. H.R. 3221 represents the largest single infusion of federal assistance to community colleges and their students in the colleges' more than 100-year history.

Given the current economic downturn and consequent record unemployment rates, enrollments at community colleges across the country are soaring even as states have cut support. The funds provided by H.R. 3221 will help community colleges to maintain and improve programs as they work to provide educational and workforce training programs to millions of students.

We look forward to working with Congress to ensure final passage of this landmark legislation, and we look forward to implementing its provisions to the benefit of our students and communities across the nation.

Sincerely,

George R. Boggs
AACC President and CEO

J. Noah Brown
ACCT President and CEO