



American Association of Community Colleges

Dr. Walter G. Bumphus, President and CEO

David Baime, Senior Vice President, Government Relations and Policy Analysis

James Hermes, Associate Vice President, Government Relations

Laurie Quarles, Legislative Resource Associate

Dr. Jolanta (J.J.) Juskiewicz, Director, Policy Analysis

A: One Dupont Circle NW, Suite 700 | Washington, DC 20036

P: 202-728-0200 | www.aacc.nche.edu



Association of Community College Trustees

J. Noah Brown, President and CEO

Jee Hang Lee, Vice President for Public Policy and External Relations

Jennifer Stiddard, Director of Government Relations

A: 1101 17th Street NW, Suite 300 | Washington, DC 20036

P: 202-775-4667 | www.acct.org



Joint Legislative Agenda for the 116th Congress

ADVANCING AMERICA'S COMMUNITY COLLEGES

American Association of Community Colleges
Association of Community College Trustees



THE FACTS ABOUT Community Colleges

Total Number of Community Colleges

- 1,103

Total Enrollment (Fall 2017)

- 7.0 million Credit
- 5.0 million Non-credit
- 12.0 million Total

Students Enrolled for Credit (full-time and part-time)

- 2.6 million Full-time (37%)
- 4.4 million Part-time (63%)

Race and Ethnicity

- 46% White
- 13% Black or African American
- 25% Hispanic or Latino
- 6% Asian/Pacific Islander
- 1% Native American or Alaska Native

Average Cost of Attendance (Full-Time, 2018-2019)

- \$3,660 Tuition and Fees
- \$8,660 Room and Board
- \$1,440 Books and Supplies
- \$4,170 Transportation and Other Expenses
- \$17,870 Full Cost of Attendance

Representation of Community College Students Among Undergraduates

- 41% All U.S. Undergraduates

Degrees and Certificates Awarded (2016-2017)

- 839,855 Associate Degrees
- 549,149 Certificates

Student Demographics

- 56% Women
- 44% Men
- 28 - Average Age
- 29% First Generation
- 15% Single Parents
- 5% Veterans

Working Students

- 31% Full-time
- 37% Part-time

Percentage of Students Receiving Aid (Grants, Loans, State, Institutional)

- 59% Any Aid
- 34% Federal Grants
- 15% Federal Loans
- 22% State Aid
- 7% Institutional Aid

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Federal Legislative Priorities

AACC and ACCT support the following legislative priorities for the 116th Congress.

Pell Grants

- Preserve and enhance the Federal Pell Grant program, which is the foundation of student aid for millions of financially needy college students.
- Extend Pell Grant eligibility to short-term training programs offered by institutions of higher education.
- Increase the maximum Pell Grant annually to maintain its purchasing power.
- Extend Pell Grant support to incarcerated students in defined circumstances -- “Second Chance” support.
- Increase lifetime Pell Grant eligibility to 14 semesters (full-time equivalent).

Funding for Federal Student Financial Aid and Institutional Aid Programs

- Support federal investments in higher education by providing sufficient funding allocations for domestic discretionary programs.
- Support the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) and Federal Work-Study programs, which enhance community college student enrollment and success.
- Increase funding for vital institutional aid programs, including the Strengthening Institutions (Title III-A of the HEA) program, Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions, Predominantly Black Institutions, TRIO, GEAR UP, CCAMPIS, and others that help community colleges serve diverse and economically disadvantaged populations.

Higher Education Act (HEA) Reauthorization

Student Financing, Access, and Affordability

- Support responsible student borrowing by tying borrowing limits to enrollment intensity, giving institutions more authority to limit borrowing in defined circumstances, and allowing institutions to require additional loan counseling.
- Simplify the FAFSA process to support greater community college student participation in federal student aid programs.
- Examine the federal needs analysis system to ensure that working students, particularly those with families to support, receive adequate support.
- Reform the allocation formulas for Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG) and Federal Work-Study (FWS) so that institutions serving high percentages of needy students receive proportionate resources.
- Restore full Title IV student aid eligibility for community college students who lack a high school diploma or its equivalent but have demonstrated their ability to benefit from postsecondary education via successful coursework.

Institutional Accountability and Promoting Student Success

- Create a federal student unit record system to generate student-level data on postsecondary outcomes and earnings.
- Establish more accurate measures of community college success by counting students who graduate within six years as well as those who transfer to other colleges.
- Replace the current Cohort Default Rate with an institutional accountability metric that reflects rates of student borrowing.
- Reject proposals to impose financial penalties on community colleges through risk sharing.
- Support an independent accreditation process that provides necessary quality assurance for the federal government and other stakeholders.

Innovation and Compliance

- Streamline federal reporting and disclosure requirements and lighten the federal regulatory burden wherever possible; ensure that the Department of Education works

with colleges in a positive, partnership-oriented fashion.

- Refine Title IX provisions to enhance student safety and clarify institutional responsibilities, taking into account the unique features of community college campuses.
- Encourage quality innovations in higher education, including competency-based education, dual enrollment, guided pathways, and other educational advancements.
- Uphold certain student protections such as the “90/10” rule, which requires that for-profit institutions derive at least 10% of their overall funding from non-Title IV sources.

Access to Benefits for Low-Income Students

- Enact policies that allow severely financially disadvantaged community college students with unmet need to access programs providing food, housing, medical and other basic needs. Likely due to a lack of information and work requirements for non-parenting students, only about one-quarter of food-insecure students receive help from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Workforce Development and Career and Technical Education

- Create and fund a dedicated program that supports and expands innovative community college and industry partnerships.
- Increase funding for state grants under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (CTE). Increase funding for the occupational and adult basic education programs in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Increase funding for the Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program at the National Science Foundation and include community colleges in efforts to bolster America’s competitiveness in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.
- Foster rural economic development by providing adequate federal resources for essential programs addressing rural education, rural health care, renewable energy, and rural workforce development.
- Ensure that community colleges and their local service delivery areas can access broadband internet services.

Higher Education Tax Benefits for Low-Income Students

- Streamline and simplify the higher education tax provisions provided to students and their families, while maintaining the total federal investment in college financing.
- Improve the American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC) by targeting the credit to students with the greatest financial need and increase the refundable portion of the credit.
- Ensure that community college Pell Grant recipients qualify for the AOTC by making Pell Grants non-taxable.

Veterans

- Fund new and existing programs to help institutions better serve the needs of veteran students.
- Ensure that active duty personnel and their dependents can fully participate in community college educational programs.
- Enact reforms that help veterans choose the educational program best suited to their needs and to prevent their exploitation.

DREAM Act and Immigration Policy

- Pass legislation that would establish a path to citizenship for certain undocumented students who entered the U.S. as minors.
- Eliminate federal restrictions on states that offer in-state tuition to undocumented students.
- Make Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act students eligible for federal student financial aid.

International Education Programs

- Increase opportunities for community college students to study abroad and encourage international students to enroll at community colleges.
- Increase funding for the HEA Title VI and Fulbright Hays undergraduate international education programs, which are vital to national security and economic productivity.