Higher Education Act Reauthorization
New Policies for Changing Community Colleges

A Congressional Briefing
sponsored by the
American Association of Community Colleges and
Salt Lake Community College

June 6, 2016 12:00 – 1:30 PM
Capitol Visitors Center
Room HVC 201 A&B

Community colleges are the largest and most diverse sector of higher education and serve the highest percentages of financially needy students. This, combined with their focus on responding to local business and social needs, uniquely positions them to help citizens maintain stable, family-supporting jobs. The Higher Education Act (HEA) is essential to enabling community college students to enroll and succeed. Nearly 8 million students enroll in community colleges each fall, and more than 3 million of the students receive Pell Grants.

Four community college presidents and one state system head will brief attendees on the agenda of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) on the Higher Education Act (HEA) reauthorization and the Carl D. Perkins Act. The briefing will explore how federal policy can enhance the work of community colleges as they respond to the changing economy, new pedagogical strategies, and evolving student needs. Ample time will be allocated for audience questions.

Issues covered will include:

- Making Pell Grants more supportive of student success, particularly for non-traditional students and programs targeted to the workforce.
- Ensuring that students borrow appropriately and that, once they have received loans, they are serviced efficiently.
- Establishing federal measures of community colleges that reflect the academic patterns of their students and provide meaningful workforce outcomes.
- Incentivizing innovation and academic quality with reduced regulation and targeted institutional assistance.
- Encouraging states to play a more vigorous role in financing community colleges and their students, as a way of making community college available to all.

A box luncheon will be served at this widely attended event.

Presenters

Karen Bowyer, President,
Dyersburg State Community College (TN)

Charlene Dukes, President,
Prince George’s Community College (MD), and Chair, AACC Board of Directors

Deniece Huftalin, President,
Salt Lake Community College (UT)

Nancy McCallin, President,
Colorado Community College System

Dan Phelan, President, Jackson College (MI), and Chair-Elect, AACC Board of Directors

Please confirm your participation with Laurie Quarles, AACC Legislative Resource Associate at lquarles@aacc.nche.edu, 202-416-4503.