

Legislative Background and Talking Points for ATE Conference Attendees

Background

- Final funding legislation for FY 18 (which started October 1) will likely be passed in December.
- Most expect a budget deal to occur between now and then that will provide more money for government programs.
- The NSF is funded through Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations bill. The House and Senate appropriations committees passed their respective versions of this bill earlier this year.
- ATE funding is contained within Education and Human Resources Directorate at NSF.
 - ATE is not a line item in the bill.
 - ATE funding is often directed through report language.
 - House: EHR \$880 million; Senate: EHR \$862 million.
- Both House and Senate committee reports contain language saying ATE is to be funded at no less than last year's appropriations level: \$66 million.

Talking Points

- Congress should enact new budget caps that significantly increase spending for non-defense discretionary programs. This funding is essential to making needed investments in student aid, workforce development, and other forms of support for community colleges, including the ATE program.
- Congress should pass final appropriations legislation that provides at least level funding for the ATE program in FY 18. Should additional resources become available, the ATE program should be increased accordingly.
- The ATE program is a vital source of support for STEM education and workforce development at community colleges. Its centers and programs build and improve programs that educate workers in fields such as cybersecurity, advanced manufacturing, renewable energy, and hundreds more.