Pre-NLS Federal Policy Webinar

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2020 IS A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION YEAR

• Congress Will be Challenged to Enact Major Legislation Due to Limited In-Session Time and Political Constraints
• 116th Congress Has Low Productivity Even by Recent Standards
• But, Incumbents Prefer Achievements and HEA Reauthorization Could Benefit from Election Year Dynamic
• No Big Money for Appropriations Absent Major Policy Re-Direction
• House (D) and Senate (R) Control Likely to Persist
NLS “GREEN SHEET” MAIN PRIORITIES

• Reauthorize the Higher Education Act
  • Authorize Short-term Pell Grants
  • Increase the Pell Grant Maximum
  • Establish Second Chance Pell Grants
  • Support State Investments in Lowering the Cost of Community College With Substantial Federal Support
  • Enhance Transparency and Data
NLS “GREEN SHEET” MAIN PRIORITIES

- **Invest in Education and Workforce Development**
  - Support Student Access and Success
  - Strengthen Under-Resourced Institutions
  - Bolster Job Training and Career and Technical Education
- **Support Dreamers**
  - Assist Students Impacted by the DACA Rescission
**HIGHER EDUCATION ACT (HEA) REAUTHORIZATION**

- **FUTURE Act Enactment Positive But Relatively Limited**
  - HBCU and Minority-Serving Institutions mandatory funding
  - FAFSA Act – facilitates completion of application through IRS Data Sharing
  - Bipartisan deal emerged somewhat unexpectedly late in 2019

- **Senate Negotiations Continue – Some Optimism**

- **House Bill Cleared By Ed & Labor Committee 10/31 on Party Line Vote**

- **House Bill Probably Headed for Floor Soon; “PAYGO” Offsets Not Determined ($331.9 B Needed)**
Short-term Pell Grants

Eligibility for shorter-term programs should be established, with safeguards to ensure that only high-quality programs receive support.

- Short-term training programs offer opportunities for students to quickly increase their skill level and earning potential.
- Lowering the threshold for Pell Grant eligibility to 150 clock hours will enable more individuals to access training programs for jobs in high-demand fields.
- Strongly support the JOBS Act: S. 839, H.R. 3497
REAUTHORIZE THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

• **Increase the Pell Grant Maximum Award**
  - Boost the maximum grant and provide annual inflationary increases to the maximum award using mandatory funding
    - Increasing the maximum award diminishes the cost of attendance for low-income students and reduces their need to borrow. It is akin to lowering tuition.
    - Pell Grants help expand postsecondary access, lowering the equity gap between low-income students and those with greater financial means.
    - Mandatory funding provides certainty for students and relieves pressure on appropriators
REAUTHORIZE THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

• Second Chance Pell Grants
  • Overturn the ban on Pell for incarcerated individuals
    • Investing in postsecondary programs in correctional facilities reduces prison expenditures, recidivism, and unemployment among formerly incarcerated individuals.
    • The “Second Chance” Pell experimental site created by the Obama Administration and continued by President Trump has produced valuable information on the benefits of Pell Grant eligibility for prisoners.
    • Political support for higher education opportunities for incarcerated individuals has risen substantially.
Support State Investments in Lowering the Cost of Community College

- Increasing federal need-based student aid has a limited impact on college affordability if states simultaneously disinvest in higher education. States should be incentivized to sustain and enhance their support of higher education.
- A national program to enhance community college student access and success will increase economic mobility and help sustain growth.
REAUTHORIZE THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

• **Enhance Transparency and Data**
  
  • Create a national student unit record data system that accurately tracks completion, transfer and graduates’ earnings
  
  • A unit record data system will enhance the accountability of the nation’s postsecondary education system. It will allow prospective students and policymakers to make better decisions about postsecondary education.
  
  • A unit record data system will reduce administrative costs by eliminating redundancy in the data currently reported to federal, state, local and private entities.
  
  • Congress should create a formal completion rate of 300% of “normal time” for community college programs to accurately reflect the student population enrolled at these institutions. (Support “Time for Completion Legislation” S. 3115, H.R. 3354)
• Overall NDD “Pie” Constrained, in Part Due to Big FY 2020 Bump
• Year-Long Funding Bill Before November Election Deemed Unlikely
• Support for Key CC Priorities Remains Strong
• CC Priorities Include: Pell, FWS, SEOG, TRIO, GEAR UP, Title III-A, HSIs, PBIs, Perkins Act, Adult Education, SCCTG, WIOA, ATE
• Continued Raiding of Pell Surplus of Concern ($500 M FY 2020)
INVEST IN EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

• Support Student Access and Success
  • Increase the Pell Grant maximum award in FY 2021 while protecting the program’s reserve fund
  • Boost funding for the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG), Federal Work-Study, TRIO, GEAR UP, and Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) programs
INVEST IN EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

• **Strengthen Under-Resourced Institutions**
  
  • Increase funding for institutional aid programs, including: Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), Title III-A Strengthening Institutions, Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges, and other programs serving traditionally underrepresented populations
INVEST IN EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

• **Bolster Job Training and Career and Technical Education**

  • Enhance funding for Perkins Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, Adult Basic and Literacy Education State Grants, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), state grants, and the National Science Foundation’s Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program

  • Increase dedicated community college funding for job training programs in in-demand industries through the new Strengthening Community College Training Grants (SCCTG) administered by the Department of Labor
• Program Created in FY 2020 Appropriations Legislation
• Relatively Flexible and Institution-Friendly
• Championed by Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)
• Needs Broad-Based Congressional Support—Talk it Up!
• AACC Committed to Successful DOL Implementation
DACA/DREAM ACT

- No Congressional Action Until Election Seems Likely
- DACA Renewals Still Available Due to Court Orders
- Supreme Court Ruling Expected Before Session Ends
  - Negative SCOTUS ruling puts issue back on Congressional agenda
  - Course of action depends on particulars of ruling and how issue plays in presidential campaign
SUPPORT DREAMERS

• **Assist Students Impacted by the DACA Rescission**
  
  • Enact the Dream Act to provide Dreamers with permanent legal status
    
    • The Dream Act provides a path to citizenship for undocumented young people, including the thousands of students currently enrolled in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.
    
    • These individuals were brought to the U.S. as minors and frequently have no ties to the countries from which they came.
    
    • The administration’s DACA rescission (which is currently blocked by federal courts) leaves thousands of young people, including many students, in a precarious status. The Dream Act is needed to enable them to reach their full potential.

• **NLS Green Sheet available at**
  
  [https://www.nls.acct.org/](https://www.nls.acct.org/)
“ADVOCATES IN ACTION” PRE-CONVENTION WORKSHOP

• March 26 in Washington, DC with AACC Convention
• Small Setting Format to Interact with Top Level Policymakers, including Chairman George Miller, Diane Jones, key Congressional Staff
• Please Register Now! (www.aaccannual.org)
STAY ENGAGED WITH AACC!

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