Washington Watch Live

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TOPICS

- HEERF
- DACA Regulations
- Infrastructure Bill
- Build Back Better Act
- FY 2022 Appropriations
- Vaccine Requirements
No Definitive Word from Dept. of Education (ED) on Extensions
- Early communications suggested 1-year, no-cost extensions would be broadly granted
- Mixed messages to campuses on when requests will be accepted
- A few extensions already given
- AACC urging ED to clarify situation ASAP

Administration Eager for Institutions to Spend Money Expeditiously
AACC Wants to Hear Your Questions
Make Sure to Tell Your Legislators, “Thank You”
DACA REGULATIONS

- Administration Issued Proposed DACA Regulations on Sept. 28
  - Regulations largely codify DACA as originally created
  - Work authorization separated from deportation protection
  - Regulations intended to respond to current and anticipated legal proceedings
    - Regulatory process does not address substantive reasons court has cited for ending the program

- Higher Education Groups Drafting Comments
  - AACC to make draft comments available to campuses before Nov. 29 deadline
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Signed Into Law

- Approx. $1.2 trillion bill
- Not much in bill of direct benefit to community colleges
  - No dedicated CC infrastructure funding ($12 billion) as originally proposed
  - Colleges’ main role will likely be training workers for jobs created
  - Several workforce studies mandated, but workforce training $ largely found in BBB Act

- $65 Billion for Broadband Deployment and Adoption
  - Grants to states and other entities (potentially including CCs) to help spread deployment and adoption
  - Extension of EBB program to help individuals afford broadband service
BUILD BACK BETTER ACT (H.R. 5376)

- BBB Act Encompasses “Social Infrastructure” Programs Originally Proposed in Pres. Biden’s American Jobs and Families Plans
- Negotiations Continue Between Democratic Party Factions on Final Contents, Support
- Full House Vote Possible This Week
  - If passed, bill goes to Senate, where not all Democrats have pledged support
- $40 Billion for Higher Education and Workforce (excludes TAACCCT, other programs)
  - Massive reduction from Ed/Labor bill
- AACC STRONGLY SUPPORTS!
AMERICA’S COLLEGE PROMISE – FACTORS LEADING TO EXCLUSION

- Slashing of Original BBB Plan (and as Approved by House Comms.)
- Program’s Size and “Non-Scalability”
- Relatively Complex Program
- Differential Impact on States; Required State Contributions
- Many BBB Priorities Created Complex Advocacy Environment
- Four-Year Institution Opposition
BBB: KEY PROVISIONS FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES

- $550 Increase in Pell Grant Maximum Award for 4 Years (For Profit Students Excluded)
- Title IV Eligibility For DACA, TPS and DED Students
- $500 Million for Completion and Retention Grants
- $6.1 Billion for Community College Job Training Programs
  - New Community College And Industry Partnership Grants
    - $5 billion overall, $4.9 billion for competitive grants
    - Administered by ED
    - Similar in nature to TAACCCT
  - TAACCCT: $1.2 Billion reauthorization over 4 years ($300 million per year).
    - New 15% spending requirement for student supportive services
Industry or Sector Partnership Grants - $4.6 Billion
- New DOL competitive grant program to partnerships and workforce boards
- Likely CC involvement

Additional Funds For Existing Workforce Programs
- WIOA Dislocated Worker - $2 billion
- WIOA Adults - $1 billion
- WIOA Youth – $1.5 billion
- Apprenticeship Grants - $1 billion
- Perkins CTE and Adult Basic Education - $700 million each
KEY BBB PROVISIONS (CONT’D)

- Institutional Aid: $6 Billion for HBCUs, TCUs and MSIs
  - Supplements existing mandatory funding streams
  - New student financial aid component authorized
- Reauthorization and Funding for Health Professions Opportunity Grants (HPOG)
- Broader Proposed Transformation of Child Care (Family Subsidies, Direct Program Funding, Increased Salaries) May Positively Benefit CCs in Many Respects
- Other Possible Opportunities
  - Direct care workforce grants
  - Climate change jobs programs
Pell Grants Made Tax Free for Four Years
- Portion of Pell Grants not used for tuition and fees is currently taxable
- Legislation makes entire grant amount non-taxable

AOTC “Pell Offset” Eliminated
- Students who otherwise qualify for $2,500 American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC) would not have eligibility reduced by any Pell Grant amounts received – major boon to CC students
Continuing Resolution Through 12/3, May Be Extended Into 2022

House Has Passed Extremely Generous Labor-HHS-ED Bill

Senate Democrats Have Released Draft With High Funding Levels
  - Highlights include Pell Grant maximum, institutional aid, CCAMPIS, Strengthening CC Training Grants (House)

Senate Republicans Have Yet to Weigh In and Levels Will be Reduced

Some Chance of JOBS Act Negotiated Language Being Included
BIDEN ADMINISTRATION VACCINE REQUIREMENTS

- Two Different Mandates That May Affect Community Colleges

- Federal Contractors (Fewer Colleges)
  - Institutions with federal government contracts of at least $250,000 will need to require vaccinations for employees working on the contract and those they may interact with
  - No testing option
  - Prospective requirement, though some agencies working them into existing contracts
  - Grants are NOT contracts
OSHA Emergency Temporary Standard (More Colleges)

- Mandates that all employers with at least 100 employees require employees to be vaccinated or undergo weekly COVID testing
  - Employers not required to cover testing costs
- Applies to community colleges in the 28 states and territories that have an OSHA-approved state plan
  - These states have 30 days after ETS released to update their state plans (clock started Nov. 4)
- Colleges in other states not impacted
- Legal challenges to mandate ongoing, may change timeline or eradicate requirement altogether
- Being prepared is generally advised
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Reimagine is the theme for the 2022 Workforce Development Institute taking place in Jacksonville, FL January 26-29. Register today.

The premier event for community college leaders is happening April 30-May 3, 2022. Join us in New York, NY! Submit a proposal or register today.