TOPICS

➢ Political Landscape
➢ Workforce Pell Legislation
➢ Federal Funding
➢ Farm Bill
➢ Tax Legislation
➢ ED Regulations
CONGRESSIONAL/POLITICAL DYNAMICS IN 2023

➢ Legislative enactments may be limited because of divided Congress; Not necessarily a bad thing

➢ House Committee Chair Dr. Virginia Foxx (R-NC) generally critical of higher education but supports community college workforce education role

➢ So far, House Education Committee far more active than Senate, but Ranking Member Bill Cassidy (R-LA) has been vocal in opposing Biden plans

➢ Higher education has become part of culture wars, but federal engagement in most respects is limited

➢ College attainment increasingly associated with Democratic voting

➢ Big budget battles up ahead may soon suck up oxygen—House majority’s budget policies not yet specified

➢ Upcoming Supreme Court decisions could further intensify divisions
WORKFORCE PELL LEGISLATION

➢ Top priority for AACC
  ➢ Association working closely with Hill staff to move negotiations forward

➢ 3 Workforce Pell bills introduced in House

➢ All 3 bills would make qualifying programs of 150 – 600 clock hours (more than at least 8 weeks) Pell eligible
WORKFORCE PELL LEGISLATION

➢ JOBS Act (H.R. 793, S. 161)
  ➢ Original Workforce Pell bill spearheaded by Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA)
    ➢ New Senate Republican cosponsor Mike Braun (R-IN)
  ➢ All new bipartisan House sponsors
  ➢ AACC has endorsed for several years
  ➢ Quality control measures largely focused on approvals and “inputs”
  ➢ For-profits not eligible
WORKFORCE PELL LEGISLATION

➢ PELL Act (H.R. 496)
   ➢ Introduced by Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY), working in conjunction with Education and Workforce Committee Chair Virginia Foxx (R-NC)
   ➢ 26 Republican cosponsors
   ➢ Quality metrics more focused on “outputs” (completion/job placement/earnings)
   ➢ For-profits eligible
   ➢ Sponsors open to input
WORKFORCE PELL LEGISLATION

➢ Jobs to Compete Act (H.R. 1655)
  ➢ Introduced by Education and Workforce Committee Ranking Member Bobby Scott (D-VA)
    ➢ 3 Democratic cosponsors
  ➢ Largely based on modified JOBS amendment from last Congress
  ➢ Borrows key elements from PELL Act – possible opening for serious negotiations
    ➢ For-profit eligibility
    ➢ Placement, completion, and earnings metrics
  ➢ Exclusively online programs not eligible
FY 2024 FEDERAL FUNDING

- Republican takeover of House poses more challenging funding dynamic than recent years
  - Speaker McCarthy made promises to hard-right constituency
    - Appropriations bills considered individually under open rules
    - Funding topline set to FY 2022 level
  - Stated desire to leverage debt ceiling deadline into funding cuts
  - House bills will likely contain few increases and possible cuts for domestic discretionary programs of interest to community colleges
  - Bills must be bipartisan to pass Senate
FY 2024 FEDERAL FUNDING

➢ Highlights of Biden Administration budget
  ➢ $820 Pell max increase ($500 through discretionary appropriations)
  ➢ $500 million for targeted free community college programs
  ➢ $100 million for SCCTG
  ➢ $210 million for Title III-A

➢ Key AACC Priorities
  ➢ $750 discretionary Pell max increase
  ➢ $100 million for SCCTG
  ➢ $210 million for Title III-A
  ➢ Increases for numerous other programs, including Perkins CTE, Adult Basic Ed, WIOA, CCAMPIS
FARM BILL

➢ Farm Bill up for reauthorization this year
  ➢ Usually considered a “must-pass” bill because of bipartisan support for farmer supports, etc.
  ➢ Some political push to delay passage until next year

➢ Two community college priorities:
  ➢ Ease eligibility requirements for college students to access SNAP
    ➢ Emphasize student awareness
  ➢ $150 million grant program for community college agricultural and natural resource programs
TAX-FREE PELL GRANTS/AOTC CHANGES

➢ Two Goals:
   ➢ Make portion of Pell Grants that do not go to tuition and fees non-taxable
   ➢ Eliminate “Pell offset” so that Pell Grant recipients are fully eligible for AOTC

➢ Tax Free Pell Grant Act not yet introduced in 118th Congress
ED regulatory agenda has been extremely busy

Numerous, important rules in various stages of the regulatory process; pace is intense

- Final rule on Pell for Prison Education Programs allows implementation to proceed
- Income-Driven Repayment NPRM on table
- NPRMs expected on previous negotiated rulemaking topics – gainful employment, ability-to-benefit, program certification, and more

Title IX

- Final rule expected sometime in the next few (?) months
  - Over 240,000 comments received
  - Significantly modifies many aspects of Trump administration regulation
  - NPRM on transgender student participation in athletics recently released
  - Limitations on participation only permitted if they serve an important educational objective
ED REGULATIONS

➢ “Low-Financial Value Program” Request For Information
  ➢ ED sought comments on proposal to identify and label “low-financial value” programs
  ➢ AACC/ACCT comments express strong concerns with the concept – support providing information to prospective students

➢ Third-Party Servicers “Dear Colleague” Letter
  ➢ Proposed ED guidance would greatly expand what is considered a “third-party servicer” and impose commensurate obligations on those entities
  ➢ Higher education community comments urge ED to scrap the plan entirely and go back to the drawing board
  ➢ ED posted blog update 4/11; extends deadlines, rolls back and clarifies parts of guidance

➢ Upcoming Negotiated Rulemaking
  ➢ Possible topics include accreditation, state authorization, return of Title IV, and more
  ➢ Public hearings April 11 – 12, AACC presented April 12
SAVE THE DATE!

ADVOCATES IN ACTION

RETURNS

SEPT. 18-19!
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