Closing Plenary Address

The National Community College Agenda

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Overall Conference Evaluation

The conference evaluation will be emailed to all conference attendees. Please take a moment to complete the evaluation. We value your feedback and will use the information to improve future conferences. Thank you!
The National Community College Agenda

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American Association of Community Colleges

Introduction by Kevin Bontenbal, ACCJC Commissioner
Community Colleges in Washington, DC

May 3, 2019

David Baime, AACC Senior VP of Government Relations and Policy Analysis
OVERVIEW

- Broad Policy Landscape
- Higher Education Act Reauthorization
- Accreditation Negotiated Rulemaking
- Trump Administration Executive Order and Proposals
- FY 2020 Federal Funding
- Dream Act
BROAD POLICY LANDSCAPE

- CCs Retain Popularity with Lawmakers and Public
- “Skills Gap” Has Fostered Support for CTE in Particular
- Graduation Rates are Up (IPEDS 21% to 26% over last five years)
- State Support is Down, Replaced Almost Entirely by Tuition
- Accountability Demands Remain Acute
- Four Year Colleges are Directly Competing With CCs in Many Areas, Including Policy Space
- Congress is as Dysfunctional as Ever
Much Activity, but Enacting Legislation Remains Challenging

- House and Senate holding numerous hearings
- Active staff-level HELP Committee negotiations, summer markup seems possible but uncertain
- House activity less intense, new members have learning curve – some evidence of bi-partisanship

Committee Leaders Have Different Priorities

- Alexander: FAFSA simplification, streamlined loan repayment options, and provisions that would hold all college programs accountable for their students’ loan repayment rates (”gainful employment for all”)
- Murray: improve college affordability through federal-state partnerships, redouble scrutiny of for-profit institutions, and address campus sexual assault
- Scott: substantial investments in aid programs, increased accountability, incentivize state support
HEA REAUTHORIZATION: TOP AACC PRIORITIES

- **Strengthen the Pell Grant Program with Sustained Increases in the Maximum Grant**
  - Use mandatory funding to provide guaranteed, annual increases to maximum grant
  - Would revive system that ended in FY 2017

- **Create New Opportunities for Students Enrolled in Shorter-Term Programs**
  - Pell Grant eligibility for programs at least 150 clock hours in length, but shorter than current 600-hour minimum
  - AACC supports the JOBS Act (S. 839) introduced by Sens. Tim Kaine (D-VA) and Rob Portman (R-OH), but bill is imperfect

- **Provide Second Chance Opportunity Through the Pell Grant Program**
  - Reestablish Pell Grant eligibility for incarcerated individuals (eliminated in 1994)
  - Bipartisan support (including White House) reflects dramatically changed environment
HEA REAUTHORIZATION: TOP AACC PRIORITIES

- **Reject Risk-Sharing in Any of Its Manifestations**
  - Financially penalizing institutions will not positively affect student completion, loan defaults or repayment
  - Institutions, states and local governments already have “skin in the game”
  - Community colleges are All-In on Student Success

- **Prevent Unnecessary Borrowing**
  - Authority to reduce maximum loan amounts in specified circumstances, when students are:
    - Enrolled less-than-full-time, in shorter-length programs or programs in which earnings are relatively low
    - Already carrying significant debt
    - In need of substantial academic preparation to enroll in credit-bearing programs
HEA REAUTHORIZATION: TOP AACC PRIORITIES

- **Establish a Unit Record Data System That Accurately Reflects Community College Student Outcomes**
  - Provides comprehensive information on the performance of higher education institutions that is currently unavailable
  - Reduces college administrative costs
  - Linked to earnings data
  - 300% of “regular time” completion rate for CC students key priority
  - Support College Transparency Act, bipartisan, bicameral legislation (HR. 1766, S. 800)

- **Facilitate FAFSA Filing for Low-Income Students**
  - Emphasize the financial and other circumstances of low-income students
  - Import IRS data directly to the FAFSA--AACC supported this in bipartisan Senate FAFSA Act from 115th Congress
ACCREDITATION NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING

- Accreditation and Innovation “Negotiated Rulemaking” (Neg Reg) Consensus Reached April 3
- All Title IV Regulations Must Undergo Statutorily-Defined Process
- Accreditation Neg Reg Not Necessitated by Statutory Changes
  - Administration initiative (esp. Diane Jones) to reflect outmoded rules
  - White House involvement in background
- Community Colleges Had Seat at Table
  - Christina Amato, Sinclair Community College, OH, and Dan Phelan, Jackson College, MI, negotiators
- Representation and Process Controversial, Especially for Democrats and Allied Groups
- Formal “Notice of Proposed Rulemaking” Based on Agreement Forthcoming
- HEA Reauthorization Legislation Will Address Process
ACCREDITATION NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING ISSUES OF NOTE (REJECTED)

- New Constraints on What Constitutes a “Regional Agency”
- Increased Involvement (Up to 100%) of Non-Accredited Providers in Delivering Title IV-Eligible Programs (ED Priority)
- Assigning Accreditors New Role in Policing Transfer of Credit
- Limiting Accreditors’ Authority of Dual Enrollment Standards
- Policing Accreditation’s Role in Alleged Credential Creep
Direct Assessment Programs Need Only Be Approved by ED Once; Others Can Proceed with Accradiator Approval

DE Required “Regular and Substantive” Interaction Between Faculty and Students Placed Into Regulation

Modular Courses Accommodated to Reduce Need for R2T4 Calculations

Institutions Will Have Longer Time to Come Into Compliance With Standards (Up to 4 Years)

Slightly Easier for New Agencies to Gain Approval

New Institutional Responsibilities on Programs’ Relationship to State Licensure Standards
TRUMP HIGHER EDUCATION EXECUTIVE ORDER

- **Agencies Must Take Steps to Ensure That Federally-Funded Institutions “Promote Free Inquiry”**
  - Covered agencies include Depts. of Labor and Education
  - Student aid programs not included in funding that triggers requirement

- **Improving Transparency and Accountability**
  - ED to provide website and mobile app with information for loan borrowers
  - Expand the College Scorecard with program-level data
    - For former students who received federal financial aid:
      - Estimated median earnings
      - Median Stafford loan debt
      - Median Graduate PLUS loan debt
      - Median Parent PLUS loan debt
      - Student loan default and repayment rates

- **ED Reports On Risk Sharing Options and Reforms to Student Loan Collections Process By Jan. 1, 2020**

- **ED To Compile and Disseminate Research on Institutional Efforts To Promote Students’ Timely and Affordable Completion**
TRUMP ADMINISTRATION HEA PROPOSALS

- **Pell Grants for Short-Term Training**
- **Innovative Workforce Development Programs**
  - Pilot program to increase access to market-driven workforce development programs
  - Appears to allow student financial aid funds to be used by entities other than Title IV-eligible institutions
- **Financial Aid for Incarcerated Individuals**
  - “Targeted financial aid” to prisoners scheduled for release
- **Risk Sharing**
  - Little detail provided – will “work with Congress”
- **Authority to Limit Student Borrowing**
- **Consolidated MSI Programs**
Deal to Raise Budget Caps Not Yet in Place
- Non-defense discretionary (NDD) spending cap currently slated to drop by $55 billion (> 9% cut)
- House bill would increase NDD spending by $34 billion over FY 2019 level
- Deal likely, but final numbers and timing unclear

Trump Administration Budget Geared to Current Caps for NDD Programs
- Deep cuts to many NDD programs, including education and workforce training
- Congress likely to reject many of these cuts, but must pass budget deal

House Labor-HHS-ED Markup Scheduled for April 30; Full Committee May 8
Labor-HHS-ED May be Coupled With Defense
AACC FY 2020 FUNDING PRIORITIES

- Pell Grants
  - Increase maximum award by $200
  - Reject proposed $2 billion rescission

- Other Higher Ed Programs
  - At least inflation-level increases for:
    - SEOG, Federal Work Study, TRIO, GEAR-UP, CCAMPIS
    - Title III-A Strengthening Institutions, other Title III programs, Title V Hispanic-Serving Institutions

- Workforce and CTE
  - New, dedicated funding for community college job training capacity, a la TAACCCT or CBJTG
  - Funding at authorized levels for:
    - Perkins CTE, WIOA programs, Adult Basic Education
  - $5 million increase for NSF ATE Program
DREAM ACT

- Bills Introduced in Both Chambers
  - House: American Dream and Promise Act (H.R. 6)
  - Senate: Dream Act of 2019 (S. 874)
- Bipartisan Support for Both Bills
- Challenging Road Ahead
  - 60-vote Senate threshold out of reach
  - Administration becoming increasingly hawkish on immigration
- DACA Renewals Still Available Due to Court Orders
  - No new applications accepted
  - May wind up in Supreme Court, but not this term
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