

2018 College of Lake County Federal Legislative Priorities

1) Maintain Pell Grant Maximum of \$5,920 Without Limiting Eligibility

- **The AACC/ACCT is requesting that the Pell Grant maximum be maintained at \$5,920.**
- Pell Grants serve three million community college students nationally.
- Pell Grant funds go to the neediest college students who may not be able to attend college without these funds.
- Pell Grants can be used for books, living expenses, tuition and fees.
- **In award year 2016-17 the College of Lake County dispersed \$9,076,831 in Pell Grant funding serving 3,260 students. Of these students, 655 (18%) received the maximum Pell grant of \$5,815 (1,911 students qualified for the maximum Pell award, but 655 attended full time). The average award was \$2,784 per student.**

2) Maintain the Basic State Grant under Carl Perkins at \$1.2 billion.

- **In FY18, CLC received \$341,821 in Carl Perkins funds from the ICCB to purchase equipment, improve student academic and technical skills, assist with degree and certificate completion, and increase student employment placement and retention.**
- Funds have been used to increase the number of students from special populations enrolled in Nursing, Horticulture, Automotive Technology, Computer Assisted Design, and other career programs.
- Annually, more than 900 students are provided services under this program.
- Thank you to the House of Representatives for unanimously passing H.R. 2353, the *Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act*, to reauthorize Carl Perkins. The Act has not been reauthorized since 2006. The Senate has not considered the legislation.

3) Maintain the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program

- On September 5, 2017, the Trump Administration formally announced they are rescinding the **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)** program.
- The DACA program protected nearly 800,000 young, undocumented immigrants from deportation who were brought to the US as children and provided them opportunities to work and study.
- DACA provides an educational and career pathway for undocumented students many of whom have no ties to the countries from which they came.

- DACA allows students to earn money to support their college education, and in some cases, allows students receive in-state tuition rates and other forms of student assistance.
- Current students under DACA are fearful that they will be deported.
- Congressional action is required by March 5, 2018 to maintain this vital program.
- The Trump Administration has released a list of requirements for immigration legislation offering a path to citizenship including:
 - Expansion of protections from deportation to 1.8 million “Dreamer” immigrants brought into the country as children. The increase from 800,000 would include those who were eligible for the protections, but did not register.
 - Allow Dreamers to become citizens in 10 to 12 years, with requirements yet to be determined for work and education, as long as they do not commit crimes.
 - Establish a \$25 billion trust fund to pay for a wall on the U.S. southern border and security improvements on the northern border.
 - Limit immigration sponsorship to spouses and minor children, ending the ability to sponsor parents, older children and siblings.
 - End a lottery for green cards offered to applicants from countries with low immigration rates. The program offers up to 50,000 visas a year.

4) Maintain U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Labor, and National Science Foundation competitive grant funding

- The College of Lake County has been successful in obtaining highly competitive federal grants under the U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Labor, and National Science Foundation.
- Below is a sample of CLC’s current federal competitive grants:
 - **\$1.1 million over a five year period for a TRIO: Student Support Services grant** from the U.S. Department of Education. Provides for personnel costs and direct student services to 140 CLC low-income, first generation and/or disabled students annually.
 - **\$2 million over a five year period for a TRIO: Talent Search grant** from the U.S. Department of Education to serve 828 high school students attending North Chicago, Round Lake, Waukegan and Zion. Provides tutoring, mentoring, college enrollment and financial aid information.
 - **\$400,000 for the Childcare Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS)** from the U.S. Department of Education to provide the childcare needs of low income student parents to allow them to focus on their educational goals.
 - **\$586,076 from the National Science Foundation’s Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM)** to provide scholarships to academically talented and financially needy students enrolled in Engineering and Computer Science majors.
 - **\$883,093 from the National Science Foundation’s Advanced Technological Education grant** in partnership with Anne Arundel Community College in Maryland and Florida State College at

Jacksonville to develop a new engineering curriculum and create a Mechatronics Associates Degree at CLC. CLC has received other NSF ATE grants in photonics in the past.

- CLC also received **\$19.4 million under the Trade Adjustment Act Community College and Career Training Grant (TAACCCT)** from the U.S. Department of Labor in partnership with 16 Illinois community college under the Illinois Green Economy network. Developed comprehensive training programs in eight green economy industries via online and face-to-face instruction. **The TAACCCT program was discontinued in 2014.**

5) Reauthorize the Higher Education Act

- Congress did not reauthorize the Higher Education Act (HEA) in 2017. The HEA, which expired at the end of 2013, provides for financial aid programs such as the Pell, Work-Study, and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants.
- More than eight million students and families rely on federal financial aid annually to assist them in paying for college.
- The federal government provides 70% of all college assistance.
- The HEA also includes Title III institutional aid and the federal TRIO competitive grant programs (CLC has two TRIO grants, the Talent Search program and Student Support Services program).
- The HEA also provides competitive grant opportunities through the Title V: Hispanic-Serving Institutions program and Title VI programs for international education (CLC has received grant funding from both of these programs in the past).

The following is a CLC analysis of the Higher Education Act reauthorization legislation - PROSPER Act, H.R. 4508 (Sponsor: Representative Virginia Foxx (R) and 21 co-sponsors).

- **CLC is not in support of “risk sharing” or the return of federal Title IV funds that a student received and did not progress.** Under H.R. 4508, institutions would be responsible for repaying 90 percent of these funds. Currently, students who withdraw prior to completing a term are responsible for repaying up to the full amount of funds disbursed.
- CLC is in support of Pell Grant eligibility for shorter length programs between 300-599 clock hours in length.
- The \$300 “bonus” Pell for students who take more than 15 credits a semester and 30 for the academic year would be appreciated by our students.
- CLC is against the “single definition” of institution of higher education as this is a major goal of the for-profit sector to receive Title IV funds. The 90/10 rule should also be increased or strengthened not eliminated. The 90/10 rule governs for-profit higher education. It caps the percentage of revenue that a proprietary school

can receive from federal financial aid sources at 90% with 10% of the other revenue must come from alternative sources.

- The 12-semester limit to Pell has been retained. We would like to see this extended to 14 semesters if possible.
- We are not sure what the implications and administrative burden to CLC would be to distribute federal student aid like a paycheck in installments each week or month would be.
- CLC is against elimination of the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG).
- CLC is pleased that the bill maintains the TRIO grants. We have two TRIO grants (Student Support Services and the Talent Search). We are not in support of modification to the current program and are against the 20% cash match requirement due to the current state budget crises.
- CLC is in support of the Ability-to-Benefit students' access to Title IV aid who lack a high school diploma if they take six credits at CLC. This item was terminated in 2012.
- CLC is against the elimination of the Title III Strengthening Institutions program and hopes the Title V Hispanic Serving Institutions program is maintained.
- CLC is interested in learning more about the proposed apprenticeships program.
- CLC is interested in additional information about the proposed new College Dashboard.

6) Support Increased Funding for Community College Veteran Students

- Increased federal support should be provided to community colleges to assist veterans and active -duty service members. **CLC currently has 500+ veterans and G.I. Jobs has designated CLC a Military Friendly Gold school.**
- **Congress should fund the Centers of Excellence for Veterans Success program which provides a competitive grant opportunity that has not been funded since FY10.** Provided: outreach and recruitment of veterans, supportive instructional services, career counseling and tutoring and academic skill-building instruction and assistance with special admissions and transfer of credit from previous postsecondary education or experience. Assistance in obtaining student financial aid.