

2017 College of Lake County Federal Legislative Priorities

1) Maintain Pell Grant Maximum of \$5,815 Without Limiting Eligibility

- **The AACC/ACCT is requesting that the Pell Grant maximum be maintained at \$5,815.**
- Pell Grants serve 3.5 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 2015-16 the College of Lake County dispersed \$9,374,132 in Pell Grant funding serving 3,322 students. Of these students, 356 (11%) received the maximum Pell grant of \$5,775 (2,031 students qualified for the maximum Pell award, but 356 attended full time). The average award was \$2,822 per student.**

2) Reinstate Year-Round Pell Grants

- **A proposal in the FY17 Labor, HHS and Education appropriations bill would reinstate year-round Pell by allowing full-time students who have exhausted their Pell Grant benefits an additional disbursement for summer coursework.**
- The U.S. Department of Education estimates this proposal will provide nearly 700,000 students next year with an additional \$1,915 on average to help pay for college. **The program was eliminated in 2011.**
- In 2010-2011, CLC had **226 students utilize the year-round Pell grant for \$281,279.** This allowed for an additional enrollment of 1667 credit hours, or approximately 7.4 credit hours per student.
- Students had to be enrolled in at least half-time status to receive the additional funds. During summer, half-time enrollment is difficult and could impact success.
- Year-round Pell will be an invaluable aid to students seeking to stay in school and progress more rapidly to a credential.
- Research has shown that staying and making progress in school are important for completion. This is especially true for the neediest students.

3) Reauthorize and Maintain the Basic State Grant under Carl Perkins at \$1.2 billion.

- **In FY17, CLC received \$370,850 in Carl Perkins funds from the ICCB (a decrease of \$83,175 from FY16) 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.
- During the reauthorization process for the Carl D. Perkins Act, **Congress should continue to allow program flexibility to address local needs while providing students with clear pathways to college and careers.**

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.** 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** to serve 828 high school students attending North Chicago, Round Lake, Waukegan and Zion. Provides tutoring, mentoring, college enrollment and financial aid information.
 - **\$500,220 for the Childcare Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS)** 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)** 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) **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 700 veterans and G.I. Jobs has designated CLC a military friendly 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.

6) **Maintain the Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program**

- The future of **DACA (Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals) program** remains uncertain.
- The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) sent a letter to President Trump on January 6 to maintain the DACA program.
- More than 600 college and university presidents from public and private institutions across the U.S. have signed a statement offering to meet with U.S. leaders on the issue in support of maintaining DACA. Dr. Girard Weber, CLC president, signed the statement.

- 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.
- Attention is focused on the **BRIDGE Act S. 128/H.R.496 (Bar Removal of Individuals who Dream and Grow our Economy Act)**. The bipartisan piece of legislation developed by Senators Graham (R-SC) and Durbin (D-IL) would provide “provisional protected presence” and work authorization for eligible young people for three years from the date of enactment.

7) Support America’s College Promise Act

- Would provide enrollment at a community college tuition free.
- Three-quarters of the community college tuition cost to be paid by the federal government with states providing the rest.
- To be eligible, students would have to maintain at least a 2.5 grade-point average and enroll in academically challenging programs. Students would have to be on track to earn either a two-year career-training degree or credits that would transfer to a four-year college.
- Students would still be eligible for Pell Grants and student aid to assist with additional costs.
- The federal portion of the cost of the program is estimated at \$60 billion over ten years.
- States would have to participate in the program in order for colleges to be eligible.
- If all states participate, nine million students could save an average of \$3,800 in tuition.
- The cost of the program is considerable, but its projected expenditures represent barely 8% of the U.S. Department of Education’s budget, which in turn is less than 3% of all federal expenditures.
- The corresponding legislation in the previous congress was H.R. 2962 in the House and S.1716 in the Senate. H.R.2962 was introduced by Congressman Bobby Scott (D-VA) on July 8, 2015 and had 88 co-sponsors. S.1716 was introduced by Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) on July 8, 2015 and had 16 co-sponsors including Senator Durbin.

8) Reauthorize the Higher Education Act

- Congress did not reauthorize the Higher Education Act (HEA) in 2016. 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 and recently applied for a Title V: Hispanic Serving Institutions grant, but was not selected for funding).
- The top AACC priorities include:
 - **Simplify the application process for federal student financial aid and expand eligibility for non-traditional students.**
 - **Reform Graduation Rate Requirements:** Community college students who graduate take longer to do so than students from universities, and often do so from a different college than the one in which they initially enrolled. **According to the National Student Clearinghouse, the six-year graduation rate of full-time community college students (from any institution) is 57%.** However, the official U.S.

Department of Education community college graduation rate is 21%. The AACC seeks to have transfers-out be included in all completion rates, and the rates for community college students should be measured at 100%, 150%, and 300% of the “normal” program length.

- **Reinstate the Year-Round Pell Grant:** In 2008, Congress created a year-round Pell Grant to increase persistence and graduation rates and to enable students to complete their degrees faster. However, after just one year Congress eliminated the year-round Pell Grant for budgetary reasons.
- **Revise the calculation for federal student loan cohort default rates to factor in the low borrowing rates at community colleges.**
- **Reject Proposals for Institutional “Risk Sharing” of student loans:** Institutions would be assessed a share of the costs associated with non-repayment of student loans. Community colleges have limited control over student loan repayment and Congress should not include any risk sharing in the HEA reauthorization.

Additional College of Lake County Highlights

- Public university data show that **CLC students who transfer generally do as well or better** than students who started as freshman at the university.
- College costs are leaving students with large amounts of debt or placing higher education beyond their reach. **Tuition and fees for one year at CLC are less than half the average cost at a public university.**
- CLC is **investing \$2.4 million to increase graduation and transfer rates.**
- In the past five years, **28,997 students have enrolled in a career or vocational program.**
- Survey data show career program respondents report a mean annual salary of more than **\$41,000.**
- CLC offers the only certificate in the Chicago area preparing students for careers in the laser/optics/photonics field.
- Established a Manufacturing Skills Network to support the local economy by connecting employers with a skilled workforce, our students and graduates. Additional information at: <http://www.clcillinois.edu/skills-network>
- In the last ten years, **eight out of ten Lake County employers hired a CLC student at some point**, and four out of 10 Lake County workers have taken a credit course at CLC.
- **CLC is investing \$148 million over the next several years in constructing a Sustainable Master Plan** to enhance facilities and technology for learning on all three campuses and to create a more sustainable campus environment.
- CLC contributes to the quality of health care in Lake County. In the past five years, **CLC has graduated more than 1300 health care professionals, including more than 400 registered nurses.**

- **More than 1,200 high school students enrolled in dual credit courses last year.**
- As a major employer in the area, the College of Lake County contributes to Lake County through its daily operations, adding **\$52 million in sales or economic activity each year and providing 1,590 jobs in the local economy.**
- The Grayslake Campus serves as the site of the University Center of Lake County providing access to bachelors and graduate degree programs.