



## 2010 COMMUNITY COLLEGE FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

### Pell Grants

Each year, Pell Grants help more than two million community college students attend college by paying for tuition, books and equipment, and living expenses—they receive more than 30% of all program funds. Pell is the most critical college access program for students, and Congress needs to continue to provide substantial increases to the maximum grant and ensure steady program growth.

### Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Reauthorization

Congress needs to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act as soon as possible. WIA should prioritize the role of community colleges in delivering training services, authorize the Career Pathways Program as proposed by President Obama, and deliver integrated support for adult basic education that emphasizes bridges to postsecondary education and training. The current onerous reporting requirements for training providers need to be dramatically streamlined. The federal government should support One-Stop Career Centers directly, rather than diverting resources from other critical programs.

### Tax Incentives for Higher Education

Community colleges strongly support the consolidation, streamlining, and retargeting of federal higher education tax benefits to the neediest students. The “American Opportunity Tax Credit,” which was included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, includes many key features supported by community colleges. It provides a strong framework for addressing the current inequities in the tax credits, which Congress will need to extend in 2010.

### Carl D. Perkins Act

Congress should continue its bipartisan support for the improvement of career and technical education (CTE) programs at the secondary and postsecondary levels and increase funding for the Perkins CTE programs in FY2011. After the student financial aid programs, the Perkins Act is the largest single source of federal support for community colleges.

### Higher Education Act (HEA)

As the Administration continues to implement the sweeping provisions of the 2008 reauthorization of HEA, Congress needs to closely monitor the process to ensure that the many changes made to the reauthorized HEA have their intended effects. In addition, Congress should provide funding for key programs such as Title III-A, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Predominantly Black Institutions, the new College Partnership Program, sustainability, rural colleges, and workforce training.

### DREAM Act

The Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act provides a path to legal status for thousands of undocumented students that were brought to this country as children,

worked their way through high school, and now face an uncertain future. Also, DREAM Act returns to the states the decision of whether to extend in-state tuition to undocumented students. The DREAM Act has strong bi-partisan support and Congress should pass the bill during this session of Congress.

**Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Reauthorization**

When Congress examines this law, it needs to consider the critical role played by community colleges in supporting the nation's K-12 system. Community colleges look to partner with the federal government through the ESEA to offer more dual enrollment programs and early college high schools, as well as play an enhanced role in teacher preparation.