



## TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES

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STATE OF WASHINGTON

# 2010 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## Support Economic Recovery

### Enact the American Graduation Initiative

The American Graduation Initiative (AGI) would provide unprecedented federal support totaling \$12 billion for community colleges to help return the nation to world leadership in higher education attainment by 2020.

- **Enact H.R. 3221 and provide the full \$12 billion in AGI funding.**
- **Final AGI legislation should allow community colleges to compete for grants throughout the ten-year program, rather than directing all grants to states for years 5-10 of the program.**

### Help Community Colleges Respond to Huge Demand for Education and Training

As a result of the down economy and increased unemployment, Washington state's two-year colleges are experiencing a record 14% enrollment increase in worker retraining programs. Due to significant state budget reductions, colleges cannot retain or hire sufficient numbers of faculty and staff to meet the student influx and demand for services.

- **Enact the Jobs for Main Street Act (H.R. 2847) which includes \$23 billion for the Education Jobs Fund that would provide financial support for colleges.**
- **Enact the Community College Emergency Stabilization Fund Act (H.R. 4196), which authorizes a new program designed specifically to help community colleges provide needed services and instruction for students.**

### Strengthen the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act Programs

The Perkins ACT provides about \$12 million annually to Washington's community and technical colleges. The program helps underserved populations pursue professional-technical training in high-demand fields. Perkins funding is directed to students with disabilities, students of color, students seeking non-traditional careers, and other underserved populations.

- **Increase funding for the Perkins CTE programs in FY 2011 to \$1.4 billion.**

### Reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act

WIA reauthorization legislation should prioritize the community college role in delivering training services and expand innovative programs, such as Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (I-BEST).

- **Create common definitions, purposes, activities and outcomes for Title I and Title II and name community colleges and local workforce boards as system partners.**
- **Expand the purpose of Title II (Adult Basic Education act) to focus on student success in post-secondary education and progress on career pathways.**

# Support Student Success and Access

## Increase the Pell Grant

Pell Grants help more than 50,000 of Washington State's low- and moderate-income community college students each year by helping cover the cost of tuition, books and equipment, and living expenses.

- **Provide sustained increases to the maximum grant, which will reach \$5,550 for the 2010-11 award year.**
- **Support the Administration's budget reconciliation recommendation to increase the Pell Grant maximum each year by an amount equal to the Consumer Price Index plus one percent.**

## Extend and Improve Higher Education Tax Incentives

The \$2,500 American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC), included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, expires in 2010. The AOTC provides \$2,500 each year, covers course materials as well as tuition, and is partially refundable.

- **Make the tax credit permanent and index it to inflation.**
- **Ensure needy grant recipients, particularly Pell Grant recipients, are eligible for the credit.**

## Pass the DREAM Act

The Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act (H.R. 1751, S. 729) provides a path to legal status for thousands of undocumented students who were brought to the U.S. as children, worked their way through high school, and now face an uncertain future.

- **Washington State is one of few states in the nation that already extends in-state tuition to undocumented students.**
- **The DREAM Act has bipartisan support and should be enacted now – separate from comprehensive immigration reform.**

