



VIRTUAL  
**COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT

February | 8 - 10 | 2021



# Harper College Board Report

February 17, 2021



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Annual event that brings community college leaders to Capitol Hill to advocate for higher education

# Harper College Goals for NLS

- Learn about the upcoming federal legislative agenda and Biden Administration priorities affecting higher education
- Advocate for community colleges while providing the Harper perspective
- Strengthen relationships with our federal elected officials

# General & Policy-focused Sessions

- Pandemic-Related Aid for Students and Community Colleges
- A National Path Forward for College Promise Programs
- The Role of Community Colleges in an Economic Recovery
- Connecting Basic Needs Services with Workforce Education and Training

# National Legislative Priorities

## **Fund Community Colleges and Their Students to Meet the Pandemic's Challenges**

- Provide Stimulus Support to Sustain Students and Colleges Through the Pandemic
- Create a Dedicated Community College Job Training Program

## **Support Dreamers**

- Enact the Dream Act

## **Focus Student Tax Policy on Those Who Can Benefit Most**

- End the Taxation of Pell Grants

## **Invest in Higher Education and Workforce Development in the Appropriations Process**

- Support Student Access and Success
- Strengthen Under-Resourced Institutions
- Bolster Job Training and Career and Technical Education

# National Legislative Priorities

## **Reauthorize the Higher Education Act for Today's Colleges and Students**

- Work with States to Make Community College Universally Accessible, Promoting Student Success
- Support Pell Grants for Students in Short-Term Workforce Programs
- Increase the Pell Grant Maximum
- Invest in Basic Needs Supports for Students

# Additional Harper Priorities and Position Statements

- Support Textbook Affordability via mechanisms like Open Educational Resources (OER)
- Support veterans receiving credit for prior and experiential learning
- Support broadband access as a basic need support and include in infrastructure relief package
- Shared Harper success with TAACCCT grants as evidence for supporting a community college jobs program in future economic relief package

# Some Take-aways

- Strong support from elected officials for Harper College and community college priorities, including keeping college affordable
- Importance of helping legislators understand the student experience and challenges so that can be translated into legislation or programs
- Continued need to articulate the “value of college” to our communities



# Next Steps and Follow-Ups

- Respond to any informational requests
- Set-up follow-up meetings
- Monitor upcoming economic relief packages as well as ACCT/AACC legislative alerts and advocate as needed
- Continue working with Senator Duckworth's office to provide perspective and information in relation to her Community College to Career Act (CC2C), especially as it relates to Harper's successful apprenticeship program
- Schedule campus tours for elected officials, when appropriate per COVID-19 restrictions

# Questions