

**From:** NAICU Presidents Network [mailto:presnet@naicu.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 17, 2014 10:50 AM  
**To:** NAICU Presidents Network  
**Subject:** [presnet] Home Team Advantage: Talking to Congress this Summer

Colleagues,



It is time to once again ask you to meet with your elected officials regarding the national higher education agenda. This summer we will be asking you to meet with your elected officials at “Home,” as part of NAICU’s Home and Away series. Members of Congress will be working in their local districts and states during two upcoming recesses, June 28-July 6 and August 2-September 7. Your elected officials need to hear your views on the important national issues, as they impact your students, their families, your campus, and your community.

We are in the midst of a tumultuous period for private higher education, as colleges and universities have come under increasing scrutiny by Congress, the Obama Administration, media, foundations, and think tanks. Many have questioned the value of a college degree, while offering harmful solutions for a diverse range of issues.

We at NAICU are asking you to explore inviting your representative and senators to campus, or to schedule a visit to their offices. These quieter weeks back home afford an ideal opportunity for you to talk with your delegation about the [important issues](#) facing our private nonprofit colleges.

To help you in these discussions, we have refreshed the [talking points](#) many of you used on your Hill visits on NAICU’s Advocacy Day this past February. Thanks again to all of you who took the time out from your busy schedules to come to Washington, D.C., and to support the “Away” portion of our Capitol Conversations strategy.

We encourage you to reinforce those messages this summer, at a time and place when you can personalize our critical issues for your congressional delegation. Other areas of focus you might wish to consider highlighting include the:

- Pressing need for student aid, perhaps by including a student aid recipient during a visit;
- Growing burden of federal regulations;
- Importance of tax and veterans benefits; and
- Contributions your institution is making – to both the nation and your local community.

Please be aware as you schedule meetings with your members of Congress, that some may serve on one or more of NAICU’s key committees. If so, they may be considering particular issues that you might address. On our [website](#), in addition to [general talking points](#), you will find talking points specific to each of these key committees – [education](#), [budget](#), [appropriations](#), [tax](#), and [veterans](#) – accompanied by a list of the members on each committee. Also, visit our website to find the [student aid totals for your state and congressional district](#). Following each visit, please give us a quick summary of how your conversations went using our [online feedback form](#).

Finally, I encourage you to save the date for the [NAICU Annual Meeting and Advocacy Day, February 1-4, 2015](#). We will once again be asking you to come “Away” to Washington, as we continue our efforts to ensure that the voice of independent colleges is effectively heard and understood in our nation’s capital.

Thanks for being part of the NAICU team, both at home and away.

Sincerely,

David

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