**Talking Points**

**Push for $500 Pell increase and increases to other federal student and institutional aid programs**

* I am calling to thank you for your continued support of the federal student aid and institutional aid programs and ask you to support getting the final spending bills done during the lame duck session. Passing these bills will allow us to convey to our low- and middle-income students how much aid they can expect for the coming academic year as soon as possible.
* In particular, as our students and their families are dealing with significant inflationary pressure, I ask you to support the $500 increase in the Pell Grant maximum and the highest increases possible for the other student aid programs.
* Pell Grants are a proven bipartisan program and the fairest and most efficient way to help low-income and first-generation students access and complete college. Additional grant aid helps keep low-income students in college and on track to graduation. Supporting Pell will put more money in the hands of students first and allow them to use it at the college or training program that best fits their educational needs.
* Because of Pell Grants, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, and Federal Work-Study, low- and middle-income students are able to attend the college of their choice, including [name of your institution] and become productive members of the workforce. [Talk about the impact of these programs for your students, and how you match federal campus-based aid dollars.]
* [If your institution participates] TRIO and GEAR UP are also important programs to students at our institution since they help ensure first generation students are prepared for college and have the support they need to persist to degree completion.
* [If your institution participates] The institutional aid programs under the Higher Education Act are critical to supporting Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs), and institutions receiving funding under the Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP).
* Thank you for your continued support.