

#DOUBLEPELL

THE IMPORTANCE OF DOUBLING THE PELL GRANT MAXIMUM

NAICU INSTITUTIONAL TALKING POINTS

- Representative/Senator. Thank you for taking this meeting and to discuss my request that you support the national effort to double the Pell Grant maximum by the program's 50th Anniversary on June 23, 2022.
- Doubling the Pell Grant maximum from \$6,495 to \$13,000 is the single most important step Congress can take to make access to college possible for all students.
- 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.
- The Pell Grant program is direct aid to students that they can take to the institution that best fits their educational or training goals. It puts the power of the purse in the hands of the students.
- [My college] appreciates the long-standing bipartisan support from Congress for the Pell Grant program. The Pell Grant program serves as the cornerstone of federal student aid and I have the privilege to see first-hand on my campus how it changes the course of so many lives.
- The pandemic has pulled the rug out from under low-income students and I am extremely concerned about a pending enrollment or dropout crisis. Freshman enrollment is down 13% across all institution types, and financial aid applications for low-income students are down 6%. Doubling the Pell Grant maximum can help avert this potential crisis.
- Doubling Pell Grants pays for itself. According to the Census Bureau, a recent college graduate pays, on average, \$3,660 more per year in taxes than a high school graduate of the same age. Over time the difference in taxes paid will increase as the college graduate will make \$1 million more in lifetime earnings. While Pell Grants help make the dream of college possible for students, they also more than pay for themselves through increased tax revenue to the federal government.
- There is a misperception that doubling Pell Grants will increase tuition. Extensive research shows there is no causal relationship between increases in Pell Grants and tuition. Since Pell Grants do not go to all students, they are not an issue in setting tuition.
- At [my college] we are committed to the \$xxx millions we provide low-income students annually, and in emergency circumstances, to ensure these students can stay in school and complete their degrees. Federal studies during the George W. Bush, Clinton and Obama administrations have unequivocally debunked the fallacy that increased federal student aid causes institutions to raise tuition.

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- At *[my college]* **XX%** of students are Pell Grant recipients . . . *[tell the story about Pell Grant recipients at your college, past and present, including their background stories, educational goals, persistence and graduation rates, for example]*
- In our congressional district/state, there are **XXX,XXX** Pell Grant recipients (see NAICU [Federal Student Aid Data Sheets](#) for details). It is evident that doubling the Pell Grant maximum would help many students across all types of institutions in our community.
- As we attempt to bring America back to strong and sustainable economic growth, doubling Pell Grants is one of the most effective and immediate tools that policy makers can use to accelerate economic recovery.