

President's Report to the **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**



SOUTHERN STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

JANUARY 2020 | DR. KEVIN BOYS, PRESIDENT

ODOT Project in Mt. Orab Affecting Brown County Campus

The Facilities and Long-Range Planning Committee of the Board met last week and will report out at the meeting. We reviewed a proposed ODOT project that would make substantial changes to the access to the Brown County Campus. After reviewing several options presented by ODOT, the committee was helpful in providing a response to ODOT concerning this project that would be more beneficial to the College's interests and the safety of our students.

Federal Update

I have the privilege of chairing the AACC's Public Policy and Government Relations Committee and am pleased to report some of Congress's budget outcomes that are particularly beneficial to community colleges and our students. Most important, is the increase in the maximum Pell grant award to \$6,345 for academic year 2020-21. Additionally, FAFSA simplification, a long-desired bipartisan effort, was accomplished to make the process for students easier, along with some relief to the institutions in the financial aid verification process. I've enclosed a handout on other important provisions in the Federal budget legislation that was passed right before the holidays.

Need to Change March Meeting Schedule

Subsequent to our previous discussion about the Board's March meeting in Columbus, we learned that Ohio's Primary Election was scheduled for March 17 and the General Assembly will not be in session that week. We are suggesting that the Board hold its annual retreat the afternoon and evening of Tuesday, March 24 through lunch on Wednesday, March 25. Please check your calendar for your availability.

Planning Grant Received for Comprehensive Transition Program

Southern State is the recipient of a \$50,000 planning grant to help the College establish a workforce preparation program for students with intellectual disabilities. The grant will enable us to hire a program coordinator to network with county Developmental Disability boards, school districts, and internal personnel to identify additional resources, identify and recruit students, and coordinate an application for a Comprehensive Transition Program with the U.S. Department of Education. Our grant proposal outlined a four-semester program that would consist of non-credit skill development in workforce readiness and work experiences, while also providing individualized opportunities for the students to take elective courses on an audit basis in areas in which they have interest and aptitude. This is a sub-grant award coordinated by the Nisonger Center at the Ohio State University.

President's Activities and Involvement

Since my last report, I have been involved in the following meetings and events:

- Performance Evaluations for President's Council and Executive Assistant
- Conference Call with OACC Presidents
- Security Tabletop Exercise: In-house Review and Prep for May Tabletop
- Hillsboro Rotary Club Meetings
- Post-Audit Meeting with Millhuff-Stang, CPA, Inc.
- Clinton County Economic Networking
- Practical Nursing Pinning Ceremony
- OACC Executive Committee & Governing Board Meetings
- Discussions of Planning Grant for Intellectual Disabilities
- Access to Educational Opportunities for all Ohioans Discussion
- Campus Walk-Throughs on all Campuses (to Prioritize Renovations/Repairs)

Upcoming Events

Board members are invited and encouraged to attend any of the following upcoming events:

JANUARY

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| Jan. 8 | Men's Basketball Game vs. Miami U-Hamilton
Patriot Center 7:30pm |
| Jan. 10 | Men's Basketball Game vs. Wright Patterson Air Force Base
Patriot Center 8:00pm |

Jan. 14	Men's Basketball Game vs. Boyce College Patriot Center 6:00pm
Jan. 16	Men's Basketball Game vs. Cincinnati-Clermont Patriot Center 7:00pm
Jan. 18	Men's Basketball Game vs. Wright State-Lake Campus Patriot Center 3:00pm
Jan. 22	SSCC Patriots Day Central Campus 11:00am – 1:00pm
Jan. 23	SSCC Patriots Day Brown County Campus 11:00am – 1:00pm
Jan. 31	Men's Basketball Game vs. The Crown College Patriot Center 7:00pm

FEBRUARY

Feb. 7	Men's Basketball Game vs. Kent St.-Tuscarawas Patriot Center 7:00pm
Feb. 9	Men's Basketball Game vs. Hocking College Patriot Center 3:00pm

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Ohio Board of Nursing Recertifies SSCC Programs

The Ohio Board of Nursing granted full approval for five years for the Associated Degree Nursing Program and the Practical Nursing Program during the November 2019 meeting. No citations were noted for the Associate Degree Program. There were two citations for the Practical Nursing Program, which were self-reported. Identified corrective action plans have been implemented.

Dr. Julie Krebs, Director of Nursing stated, "We are excited to achieve this recognition and are now focused on preparing for the next ACEN visit planned for Fall 2021. We are in the process of preparing the self-study that will be compiled over the next year."

Preparations for the HLC Four-Year Assurance Argument Continue

With the March 2020 “lock” date approaching, the college community is working to validate claims of quality with evidence through the Higher Learning Commission’s Open Pathway for Accreditation. The Four-Year Assurance Argument is a recognized step in the ongoing process which resembles the comprehensive visit (conducted every ten years), except that reviewers do not physically visit the campus, as they do in the comprehensive review. It is incumbent on the College to demonstrate and validate claims related to the following Criteria for Accreditation:

1. Mission
2. Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct
3. Teaching and Learning: Quality Resources and Support
4. Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement
5. Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness

The current argument is taking shape and the College will be fully prepared to comply with this essential component of the accreditation process.

Spring Symposium

The New Year will start with a variety of professional development opportunities for faculty. These training sessions, a vital part of maintaining and enhancing academic quality, offer timely and relevant topics including instructional technology, accessibility, and affordable learning. The January 2020 lineup includes the following highlights:

- Culture of Poverty Simulation (*Provided by Strong Start to Finish grant funding*)
- Affordable Learning and Open Education Resources in Ohio
- Accessibility in the OER Space
- CANVAS Basics (*Canvas is SSCC’s Learning Management Solution*)

Grants

Strong Start to Finish: Round II Funding

During calendar year 2019, the College was awarded a \$19,000 grant from the Ohio Department of Higher Education to implement curricular and professional development aimed at co-requisite Math and English. The College was recently awarded another \$19,000 to continue this work. Round II funds are aimed at supporting continued curricular needs and professional development aimed at incorporating part-time and CCP instructors.

STUDENT AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

Financial Aid

Federal Financial Aid Training Conference

Linda Myers attended the Federal Student Aid Training conference in Reno, NV the week of Dec. 2. The conference introduced a more streamlined approach to federal student aid with a more simplistic and modern infrastructure. One website to assist students with all aspects of federal student aid from the FAFSA application, to student loans launched in late December, to replace multiple websites for each division of student aid.

The College Scorecard will be enhanced as part of a consumer information initiative. Additional metrics will be added to the Scorecard which already provides college costs, graduation and retention rates to allow perspective students to compare additional information relative to student loan debt and student outcomes. This information will be gathered from reports submitted to the Department of Education through IPEDS and Enrollment reporting, as well as information from the IRS, and will be updated annually.

Student Success Center

Tutoring Center

Online services

In the effort to promote strong writing across the curriculum at Southern State, easy access to the Online Writing Tutoring Lab has been added to every current student's Canvas account. This support reinforces the expectation for college academic writing in all disciplines

EAB Onboarding: Faculty

The next stage of onboarding with the EAB Navigate system is focused on the faculty. Faculty were introduced to their personal accounts in Navigate during the January faculty symposium. Full-time faculty learned of the ease of accessing and communicating with their students, both as a class and as individuals. Faculty discovered the tools of academic support and early warning without the need of third-party intervention. The concept of supporting the student with a team approach was demonstrated with the hands-on practice. Faculty should find Navigate to be a useful avenue of ongoing communication for facilitating student success.

Student Clubs & Activities

Phi Theta Kappa

- Open officer interviews were conducted and the VP of Communications was filled by Elizabeth Booth. Thank You to Gary Heaton and Margaret Storrs for serving on the interview panel.
- Elizabeth Booth attended the Honors in Action Conference
- The PTK Chapter participated in the SSCC Patriots Day for incoming students.
- A college project was discussed with Dr. Kevin Boys and ideas generated for a project that will focus on diversity. Margaret Storrs and Sarah Crump will be serving as resource partners in the College project, which will prepare students to become diversity ambassadors for the College. This project will expand to meet the requirements of the Honors in Action Project for 2020.
- PTK awareness activities were conducted and invitations to 563 eligible students and 40 new members have been added. The November Induction was attended by 8 new

members and their families. Orientation was also conducted by the PTK officers in November.

- In addition to on-campus meetings, PTK is utilizing the new Canvas platform and Zoom for meetings and announcements and work on collaborative projects. This project will be led by the newly elected VP of Communications.
- Leadership in Action Ohio Regional Conference “Powers of Communication” was attended by Susan Morris, Chapter Advisor. Susan received the Horizon Award, through a nomination from the Ohio Regional Coordinator, recognizing her contributions to regional programming. Susan also earned the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Advisor Excellence badge for completion of the Five Star Advisor Program. She continues to serve on the Ohio Regional Advisory Board.
- Proposals were submitted by Susan Morris, Chapter Advisor and accepted by The Collegiate Leadership Conference of Ohio (CLCO), *10 years later: The Evolution of Leadership*. The two workshops presented were on the topics of collaboration and holistic wellness for leaders.
- The officer team continues to progress on their Five Star Program Completion.
- Jalyssa Carson, President, is leading the project for revision of the original 1989 Chapter Bylaws.



AACC Summary of H.R. 5363, the Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education Act (FUTURE Act)

The FUTURE Act was passed overwhelmingly on December 10 by the House and Senate and President Trump has stated that he will sign the legislation. The bill has two main components: 1) improving the student aid application process and 2) restoring lapsed “mandatory” funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs).

H.R. 5363 will facilitate the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) process by allowing the U.S. Department of Education (ED) to receive information directly from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), thereby allowing the removal of 22 of the 108 questions on the FAFSA. It also will simplify and enhance borrower access to income-driven student loan repayment. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the FAFSA Act produces budgetary savings of \$2.8 billion over 10 years. These savings are being used to offset \$255 million in continued annual funding of HBCUs and MSIs.

FAFSA Act Data-Sharing provisions:

- **FAFSA Simplification** - Both the Higher Education Act (HEA) and the Internal Revenue Code are altered to allow cross-agency data sharing. This change would allow for the replacement of the current IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) used in completing the FAFSA, which only allows the applicant to import tax return information into the FAFSA. The National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) called this “a clunky two-step process, requiring the applicant to obtain their own tax information from the IRS, and then import that information into the FAFSA.” The new provision would permit ED to receive data directly from the IRS. According to NASFAA, this would be “an improvement over the current applicant-initiated IRS DRT.” The streamlined process would be not only a “less burdensome process for students and families” but would “create a more secure data-sharing experience, reduce applicant errors in reported income, and reduce improper payments.”
- **Verification Relief** –Around 30 percent of all FAFSA filers are selected for further review, which requires validating information submitted in the aid application. This process is called verification. NASFAA says that “while verification is an important step in maintaining the integrity of federal aid programs, it imposes significant burden on student and families who are most in financial need” as well as aid administrators. All applications are subject to verification. The DRT, while helpful to some applicants with respect to verification, it is not available to all applicants, including non-tax filers, who must prove their non-filing status through a process of Verification of Non-filing (VONF), which NASFAA calls a burdensome process. By allowing data sharing between ED and IRS, not only will ED have the information currently imported through the DRT, but it will also receive the filing status of the taxpayer. According to

NASFAA, the data sharing would reduce the odds of being selected for verification “as it would decrease the need for applicants to enter income information manually into the FAFSA, reducing the amount of time to complete the form, as well as resulting in fewer mistakes because of human error.”

- **Repayment Simplification** – Data-sharing makes requesting or renewing income-driven loan repayment plans easier in several ways. The required re-approval of income-based repayment, with attendant data submission, has creates obstacles for many students. Under the new legislation, the applicant’s income is automatically verified through the transfer of tax information from IRS to ED, obviating the need for the completion and processing of paperwork, including recertification. In so doing, it prevents drastic changes in monthly payments as well as added interest charges or delays in loan forgiveness, and, according to NASFAA, this aids in “income verification for the three-year monitoring period for borrowers who have received a discharge for total and permanent disability.”

HBCU and Minority-Serving Institutions Provisions

The FUTURE Act restores \$255 million annually for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other Minority-Serving institutions (MSIs). These funds will enable eligible institutions to strengthen STEM programs, provide academic counseling, renovate laboratories, and purchase needed equipment to expand educational opportunities for an “increasingly diverse student population.”

Institutions must meet certain statutory and regulatory criteria to be designated as MSIs. Community colleges represent a significant portion of MSIs, including Hispanic-serving institutions, Predominantly Black institutions, and other MSIs eligible to receive these funds.

Criteria for designation as an MSI include:

- Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs) are primarily urban and rural 2-year colleges that have an undergraduate enrollment that is at least 40% African American and that serve at least 50% low-income or first-generation students.
- Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs) have enrollments of at least 10% Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander.
- Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions (NASNTIs) have enrollments of at least 10 percent Native American students and serve at least 50% low-income students.

Nearly half of Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) are community colleges. Defined by Title V of the Higher Education Act as degree-granting institutions with full-time equivalent undergraduate enrollments of at least 25% Hispanic. In 2017, there were 523 HSIs in the U.S. with 222 of these two-year public institutions, and each new, more institutions qualify as HSIs. Of the 328 Emerging HSIs (institutions with enrollments of at least 15% Hispanic) in 2017, 99 were 2-year public institutions.

Since 2008, Congress has provided annual mandatory funds as well as discretionary funding for MSIs. However, the mandatory funding authority expired in 2019. The FUTURE Act would continue providing annual mandatory

funding apportioned as follows:

- Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs) \$30 million
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) \$85 million
- Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs) \$15 million
- Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions (ANNHs) \$15 million
- Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs) \$5 million
- Native American-Serving, Non-tribal Institutions (NASNTIs) \$5 million
- Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) \$100 million

For more information, contact David Baime, dbaime@aacc.nche.edu, or Jim Hermes, jhermes@aacc.nche.edu

Washington Watch: Approps bills largely good news for community colleges

TOPICS: Washington Watch



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BY JIM HERMES DECEMBER 17, 2019

Congressional appropriators on Monday **released** all 12 compromise appropriations bills (packaged into two larger bills) that will fund the federal government through the remainder of fiscal year (FY) 2020.

The breakthrough legislation increases funding for many programs that benefit community colleges and their students, and creates at the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) a new, community college-focused job training program, which is a top priority for the **American Association of Community Colleges** (AACC).

These increases come on top of a series of boosts to key programs that have occurred in the last two funding cycles.

The government is currently operating under a short-term “continuing resolution” that expires on Friday, so Congress must pass the new bills before then or pass another short-term bill to avoid a government shutdown.

Moving on a budget deal

The bills just released reflect the budget deal struck by congressional leaders and the Trump administration earlier this year. That deal provided about \$24 billion more for domestic discretionary programs than was spent in FY 2019.

Before that budget deal was reached, the House of Representatives acted without regard to the lack of a House-Senate appropriations blueprint and passed a series of appropriations bills that assumed larger spending increases for domestic programs than was ultimately provided in the bicameral deal. The Senate did not move forward on any of its **bills** until the budget deal was struck, and never acted on its own Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) legislation.

Since agreeing to overall budget caps, congressional leaders and the administration were negotiating how much of the increased funding would go to each of the 12 spending bills. Monday’s release indicates that \$4.9 billion of the \$24 billion domestic increase went to the LHHS bill, a little under half of what House appropriators had allocated to it. The result is that programmatic increases in the final legislation were generally not as large as those in the House bill.

More on new training grants program

One of the LHHS bill’s major highlights is the new \$40 million Strengthening Community College Training Grants program. It would provide competitive grants of at least \$1 million to community colleges to augment their job training initiatives. DOL’s Employment and Training Administration would run it.

The program, **championed** by House LHHS appropriations subcommittee chair Rosa DeLauro (D-Connecticut), is intended to be a successor to previous, similar programs, such as the **Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grants** and the Community-Based Job Training Grants. While the lower final spending caps meant that the program was not funded at \$150 million as **passed** by the House, it is nonetheless an extremely positive development that AACC hopes to build on.

In other good news, the legislation would increase the Pell Grant maximum award by \$150, to \$6,345, for award year 2020-21. The maximum grant has now increased by \$425 over the last three funding cycles.

On the other hand, the legislation also would rescind \$500 million from unspent Pell Grant program balances to help fund other programs. This rescission does not affect student's grants, but it potentially spells financing complications for the program in future years.

Department of Education (ED) spending will increase by \$1.4 billion (a 1.8 percent), allowing for spending boosts to important programs, including:

- Perkins CTE Basic State Grants, \$20 million (1.6 percent)
- Adult Basic Education state grants, \$15 million (2.3 percent)
- Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, \$25 million (3 percent)
- Federal Work Study, \$50 million (4.4 percent)
- HEA Title III-A Strengthening Institutions, \$8 million (8 percent)
- HEA Title V – Hispanic Serving Institutions, \$19 million (15 percent)
- Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS), \$3 million (6 percent)

Something to watch

The legislation's accompanying report encourages ED to focus Title III-A grants on workforce-oriented programs, potentially altering the nature of the program. This concerns AACC, which will monitor the department's response.

The report also directs ED to evaluate the Second Chance Pell (for incarcerated individuals) experimental site program and to issue guidance for implementing the Ability-to-Benefit provisions that allow non-high school graduates to access student aid.

On the DOL side

The funding legislation would provide DOL programs with relatively more modest increases, except for registered apprenticeship grant funding, which rose from \$160 to \$175 million. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act formula programs were each increased by about 1.1 percent.

The Commerce, Justice and Science appropriations bill raised funding for the National Science Foundation's **Advanced Technological Education** (ATE) program to \$75 million, a roughly \$10 million hike. This is the ATE program's first significant increase in several years and it will be felt on community college campuses.

Given a variety of factors, community colleges students and institutions have reason to be thankful for this outcome. While the federal government has much more to do for our students, another funding cycle of widespread funding increases is encouraging.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



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