

MINNESOTA STATE CONGRESSIONAL MEETINGS

On February 10 and 11, 2020, Chair Cowles, Vice-Chair Moe, Trustee Erlandson, Chancellor Malhotra, Central Lakes College President Hara Charlier, visited Washington, D.C. to discuss Minnesota State's federal policy goals for 2020. The three main opportunities that the group discussed were a partnership with the in-development United States Naval Community College, Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network Grant, and the need for investment in Open Education Resources and the Open Textbook Pilot.

During the two days of meetings, Minnesota State leadership met with John Kroger, the Chief Learning Officer for the Department of the Navy, as well as Michael Brickman, Senior Advisor to Under Secretary of Education Diane Jones. The group also met with Senator Tina Smith and staff from the office of Senator Amy Klobuchar to discuss system-wide priorities, in addition to meeting with members and staff from all eight of Minnesota's congressional districts.

ANALYSIS: HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET FOR FY2021

On February 10, 2020, the White House released President Trump's proposed budget for fiscal year 2021. The proposal includes significant cuts to domestic spending in a number of areas, including cuts to education funding amounting to \$6.1 billion, or about 8.4 percent of spending. Below, please find highlights from the President's Budget on higher education:

Pell Grants

Under the President's budget the Pell Grant maximum award would remain stagnant for 2021-2022 academic year at \$6,345. The budget also proposes enacting policy changes to expand Pell Grant eligibility to shorter-term training programs. It also calls for removing the ban on Pell Grants for certain incarcerated individuals (those who are within 5 years of release and enroll in a program that prepares them for a high-demand occupation).

Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG)

The budget calls for eliminating funding for the SEOG program. The program is currently funding at \$865 million and provides financial aid grants for more than 1.5 million students.

Federal Work Study (FWS)

FWS is currently funded at \$1.18 billion and provides assistance to more than 600,000 students. The budget would cut funding by 57 percent for a total allocation of \$500 million. The budget also proposes modifying the current distribution formula to provide greater assistance to institutions that serve a large number of Pell Grant students, and emphasizing workforce oriented job opportunities.

Direct Loans

The budget calls for the elimination of subsidized Stafford loans and public service loan forgiveness. It also proposes reforms to loan repayment, including instituting a single income driven repayment plan. The new income driven repayment plan would cap a borrower's monthly payment at 12.5 percent of discretionary income. It would also provide forgiveness of any

outstanding loan debt after 15 years of repayment for undergraduate borrowers and after 30 years of repayment for graduate borrowers.

Career and Technical Education

The administration proposes a significant increase to Perkins Career and Technical Education (CTE) funding. This includes an additional \$680 million for Basic State Grants, and \$83 million for National Programs. Budget documents state that the additional funding is aimed at expanding apprenticeship opportunities and work-based learning, as prioritizing education and training in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

Titles III and V

The \$108 million Strengthening Institutions Program (Title III – A) is recommended for elimination under the budget request. Additionally, the budget calls for the consolidation of several discretionary Minority Serving Institution programs: Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions; Strengthening Predominately Black Institutions; Strengthening Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-serving Institutions; Strengthening Asian American- and Native American Pacific Islander-serving Institutions; and Strengthening Native American-serving and nontribal institutions.

TRIO and GEAR UP

The administration is proposing a \$140 million cut to federal TRIO programs, and a restructuring of the programs. Under the proposal TRIO would shift from several competitive federal grant programs to a state formula grant program. The budget proposes eliminating funding for the GEAR UP program, which received \$365 million for FY 2020.

Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS)

The budget calls for a \$38 million cut to the CCAMPIS program, bringing funding from \$53 million to \$15 million.

CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE

Congress is facing an abbreviated schedule for the 2020 legislative session as committee leaders in the House and Senate try to get their priority pieces of legislation passed before the August recess and subsequent campaign season. House Committee on Education and Labor leadership and Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions leadership are expected to try to advance their preferred Higher Education Act reauthorization packages by late spring or early summer.

KEY UPCOMING DATES

March 3, 2020

Super Tuesday

April 21, 2020

House Appropriations Committee to Begin FY2021 Markups