



THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

November 17, 2016

CALIFORNIA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

Dear Members of Congress:

On behalf of the University of California (UC), the California State University (CSU) and the California Community Colleges (CCC), we urge you to support restoration of year-round Pell Grants and increases to the maximum Pell award in the final Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 funding legislation. We also urge you to oppose using any Pell funds for purposes other than assisting low-income students.

UC, CSU and CCC educate more than 2.8 million students each year, and the federal government is a key partner in ensuring that our schools remain affordable and accessible for all eligible Californians. Pell Grants are the foundation of federal financial aid programs and a critical component in our students' aid packages, which also include significant state and institutional aid.

This year there is bipartisan support for reinstating year-round Pell Grants, and given its lower-than-expected costs in recent years, the Pell program has a current funding surplus. Congress has the opportunity through the FY 2017 funding legislation to provide for an increase in the maximum award and restore year-round Pell Grant eligibility, while still preserving a healthy surplus to assure the program's future financial stability.

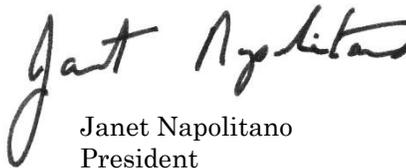
More than 40 percent of students at UC and CSU rely upon Pell Grants, and the number of Pell Grant recipients at CCC has more than doubled over the past 10 years. Unfortunately, many low-income students exhaust their Pell eligibility during the academic year and cannot afford to continue their enrollment in the summer. By restoring year-round Pell Grants, tens of thousands of California students, and many more across the country, would receive additional grant money if they enroll year-round, allowing them to stay on track for graduation or, in many cases, accelerate their time-to-degree completion.

Together we are demonstrating our combined commitment to ensuring that all students – regardless of their income – have access to, and can afford, quality higher education. We

encourage you to support reinstating year-round Pell Grants and increasing the maximum Pell award while preserving Pell resources for the program's future needs.

If you have any questions regarding the importance of Pell Grants or the restoration of year-round Pell for our schools, please contact us.

Yours very truly,

 
Janet Napolitano
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Timothy P. White
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