

# WWU and AASCU TOP POLICY PRIORITIES

## Affordability

- **Support** increased grant funding for the neediest students and advocate for policies that promote better management of educational debt for student loan borrowers.
  - Continue and grow current levels of Pell Grant funding
  - Return year-round Pell Grants
  - Open Pell Grants to low-income students who earn college credits while still enrolled in high school
- **Advocate** for college affordability and mitigate tuition increases through adequate state investment in public higher education.
- **Promote** policies that align federal and state practices in support of greater affordability and improved access.
- **Encourage** and promote AASCU's proposed federal matching program and other strategies for leveraging federal resources to incentivize state higher education funding.
- **Support** proposals that promote state-federal affordability partnerships by providing federal incentives for increased state funding of operating costs at public colleges and universities.

## Accountability

- **Support** effective accountability requirements to safeguard taxpayers' investment in higher education.
- **Reform** the current regulatory framework for student aid by eliminating ineffective regulations and replacing them with substantive and evidence-based oversight.
- **Promote** better, more actionable consumer information, as well as better analytics on institutional performance for oversight and management purposes.
- **Promote** completion and graduation that support reasonable access and academic quality.

- **Preserve** and strengthen the American tradition of political non-interference in academic judgments about programmatic quality.
- **Support** the collection of the student data needed by the federal government for purposes specifically authorized by law.

## Combat Campus Sexual Assault

- **Support** policies and programs emphasizing a renewed and sustained commitment to student safety and prevention of campus sexual violence.
- **Encourage** state and system officials to review and update state laws and campus procedures related to sexual violence, and ensure fair and equitable proceedings.
- **Call** on the U.S. Department of Education and Congress to consult with institutions of higher education in devising policies against sexual violence on campus.
- **Ensure** that federal legislation pertaining to campus disciplinary processes maintains a standard that is fair and equitable to all parties.

## Ensure Access and Diversity

- **Recognize** and meet the specific needs of unique populations, including military students and veterans, minorities, marginalized, undocumented students, students with disabilities and international students.
- **Enhance** all facets of international education, including expanded study abroad opportunities for domestic students, enrollment of international students in the U.S., and international partnerships.
- **Support** institutional policies that promote diversity, and actively welcome and support under-represented students.
- **Oppose** state legislation that seeks to strip institutional and/or system authority to regulate concealed weapons on campus.

## Academic Success and Quality

- **Support** current levels of funding for NSF and NIH research and development.
- **Oppose** proposed legislation to reduce or eliminate K-12 college readiness programs.

## Enhancement of our Communities

- Protect funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).
  - National service programs such as AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps VISTA have contributed greatly to communities across our nation.
  - These programs offer a cost-effective way to build and sustain important community partnerships that tackle critical community issues, educate students for civic and social responsibility, and prepare students for the workforce.
  - A study by economists at Columbia University demonstrated that for every \$1.00 invested in national service, there is a \$3.95 return to society in the forms of higher earnings, increased output, and other community-wide benefits.