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NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT

DATE

FEBRUARY

9-12

LOCATION

Marriott
Marquis
WASHINGTON, D.C.



2025 National

Legislative

Summit

Priorities

Presenters

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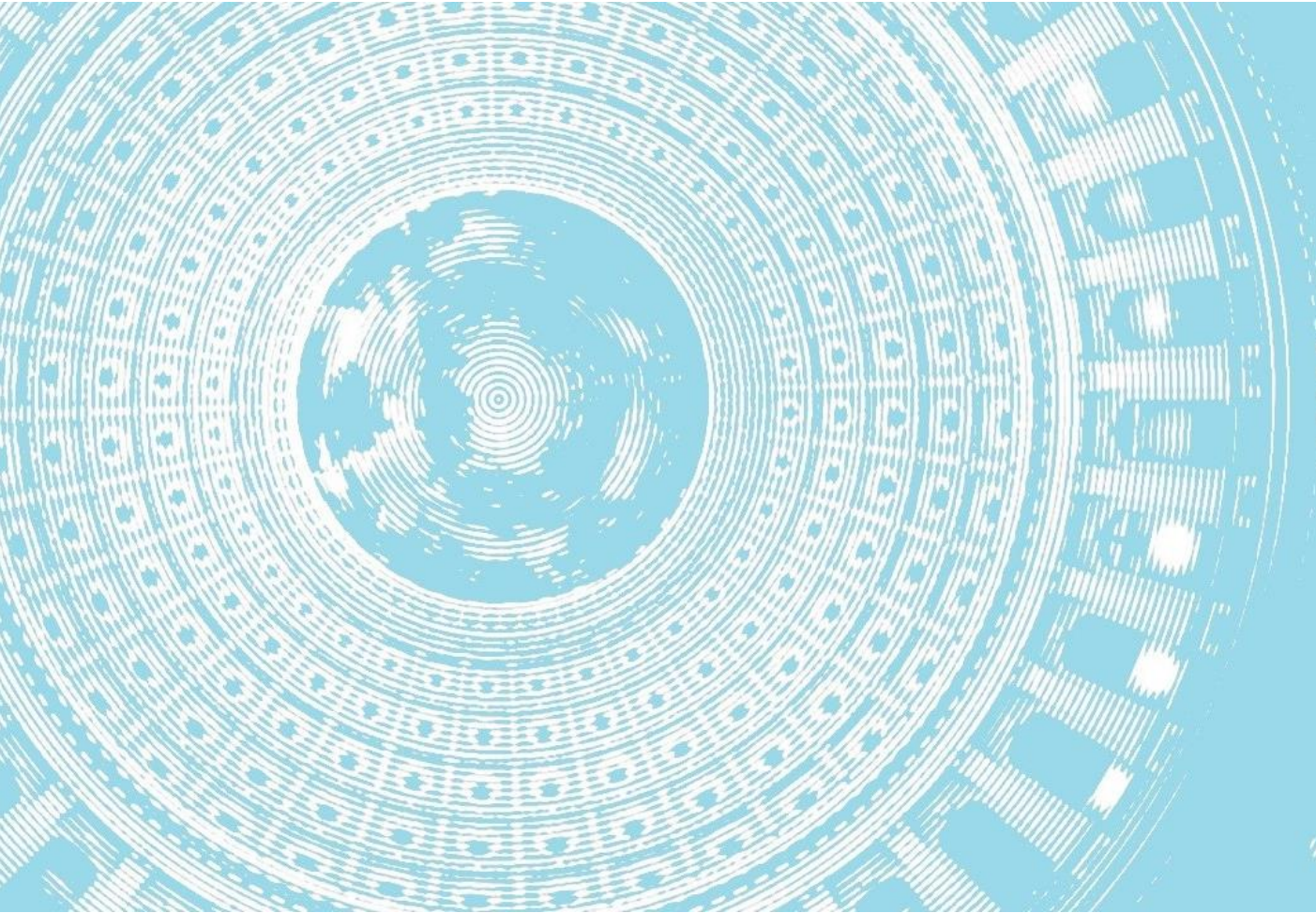
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Community College Legislative Priorities

Budget Reconciliation Issues

- Committees of Jurisdiction: Budget, Finance, Ways & Means, HELP, Ed/Workforce
- Reconciliation can pass with just 51 Senate votes, avoiding filibuster, but can only contain items that involve direct spending or taxation; must be enabled by budget resolution
- Republicans control process but are not unified on whether to pursue one or two bills; President Trump has stated support for one (House leadership preference)
- If two bill strategy is adopted (tentative Senate plan), first bill will likely focus on immigration, border security, and national security; second bill on tax
- Reconciliation Priorities:
 - Oppose: Risk-sharing!; reductions in support to low-income students; taxing grants and scholarships
 - Support: Tax-free Pell Grant Act, Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act

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Workforce Legislation

- Committees of Jurisdiction: HELP, Education and Workforce
- Key Workforce-related legislation
 - Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act (House short-term Pell bill)
 - JOBS Act (Senate short-term Pell bill)
 - Strengthening America's Workforce Act (WIOA Reauthorization)
 - Agreed to by "four corners" (committee leaders of both parties in both chambers) last Congress
 - Authorized Strengthening Community College Workforce Education Grants

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Tax Policy

- Committees of Jurisdiction: Finance, Ways and Means
- Enact “Tax-Free Pell Grant Act”
 - Ends taxation on Pell dollars used to support cost of living while enrolled
 - Enables community college student Pell Grant recipients to receive \$2,500 American Opportunity Tax Credit
- Prime opportunity this Congress:
 - 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act expires in 2025, and reconciliation legislation will certainly include sweeping tax provisions
 - Tax-Free Pell Grant Act overwhelmingly impacts only community college students; political plus
 - Bill has extremely low scorekeeping “cost” -- \$1.9 billion over ten years

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Appropriations

- Committees of Jurisdiction: House and Senate Appropriations
- Bolster Pell Grants: Increase maximum grant by least \$200; adequately fund program
- Support key student-focused programs:
 - SEOG
 - CCAMPIS
 - Postsecondary Student Success Grants
 - Basic Needs for Postsecondary Students programs
 - Federal Work Study
 - Trio and GEAR UP

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Appropriations, Cont'd

- Committees of Jurisdiction: House and Senate Appropriations
- Strengthening Under-resourced Institutions
 - Minority Serving Institutions, including HSIs, AANAPISIs and PBIs
 - Title III-A – Strengthening Institutions
 - Strengthening HBCUs and Tribal Colleges
- Strengthening Community College Training Grants (Dept of Labor)

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Farm Bill

- Committees of Jurisdiction: House and Senate Agriculture
- Invest in community colleges' increasing role in advanced agriculture and the training of workers in this sector
- Combat food insecurity on campus by streamlining access to SNAP benefits for eligible students
- Strengthen SNAP E&T program by disregarding income earned by recipients on earn-and-learn pathways

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Accountability

- Committees of Jurisdiction: HELP and Education and Workforce
- Support the reintroduction and passage of the College Transparency Act
 - Creates federal student level data network that unlocks earnings and other data
 - HELP chair Cassidy has been Republican lead in Senate
 - Cannot be included in reconciliation because it does not involve direct spending
- Ensure that any borrowing-related outcome measures (including those proposed in risk-sharing) reflect the proportion and amounts that an institution's students borrow

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Immigration/Dream Act

- Committees of Jurisdiction: House and Senate Judiciary
- Support legislation that provides a pathway to citizenship for immigrants brought to the U.S. as children
- Allow successful participation in higher education to serve as a pathway for those wishing to advance their immigration status

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Community College Caucus

- Republican and Democratic leaders in the House of Representatives have relaunched the Community College Caucus
- Co-Chairs are Reps. Bilirakis (R-FL) and Courtney (D-CT)
- Goal is to elevate community colleges' needs and provide a forum for bipartisan discussion of issues
- All House of Representatives members can participate
- Encourage your Member to join today

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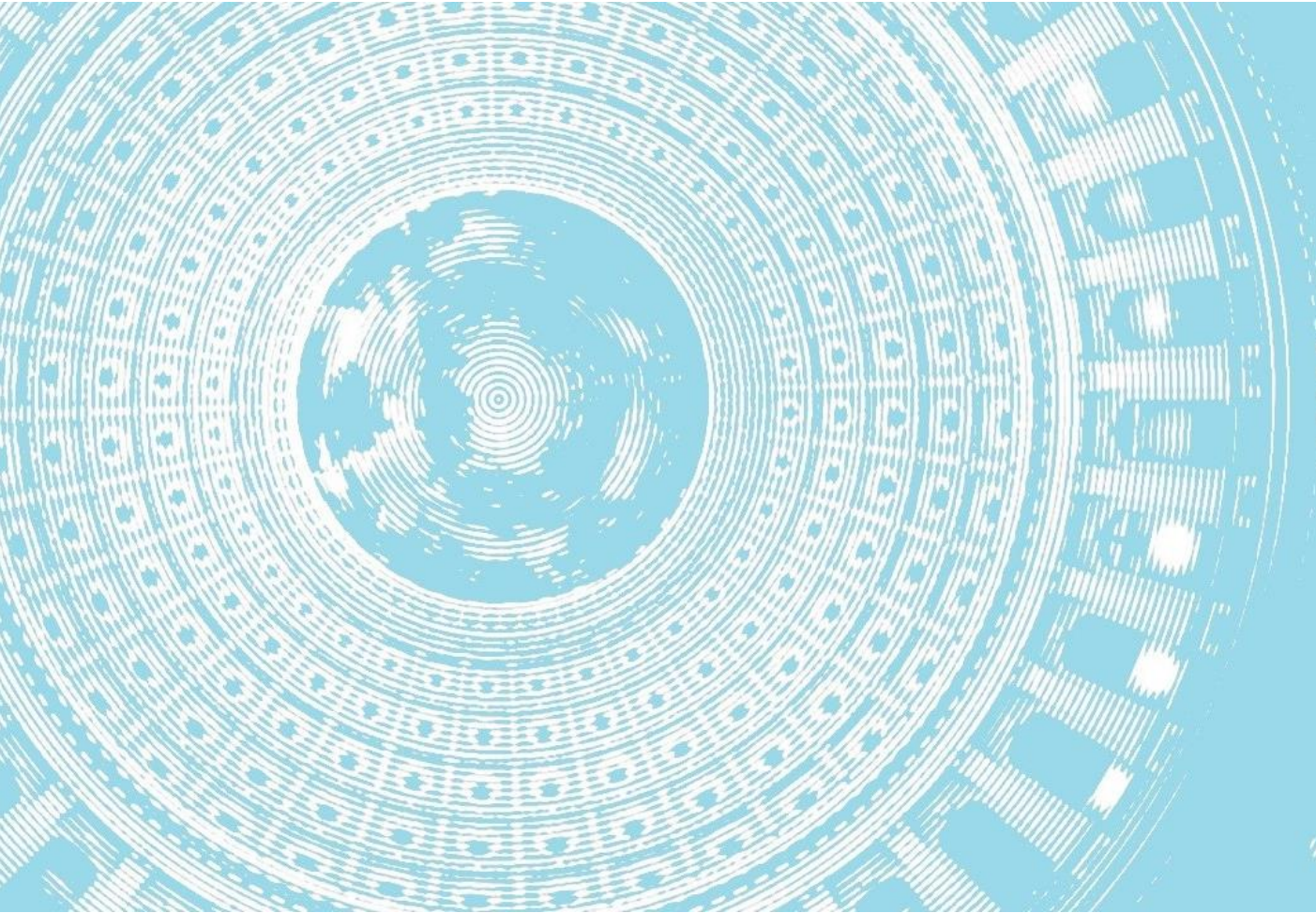
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Tips and Reminders for NLS Prep

Gathering Your College Data and Stories

- Provide “Fast Facts” and/or relevant facts about your college and student body – e.g., low cost, business relationships and economic impact, student success efforts, etc.
- Prepare federal funds worksheet
- Identify best campus stories to share



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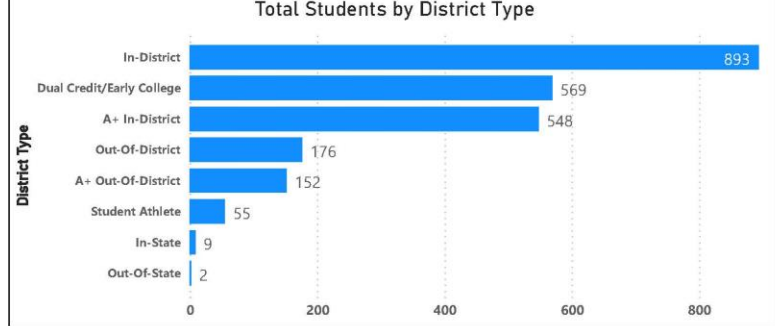
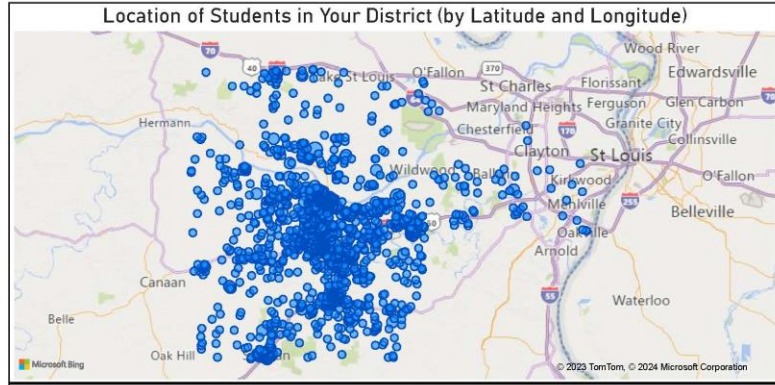
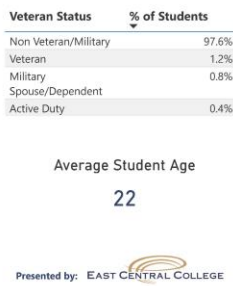
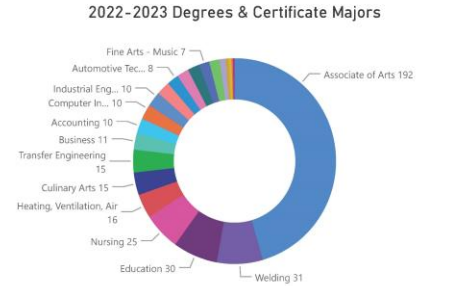
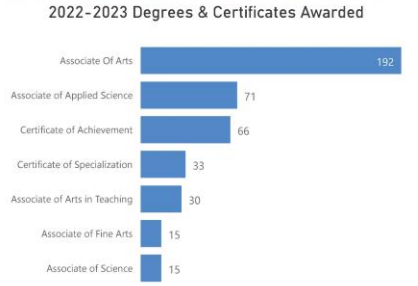
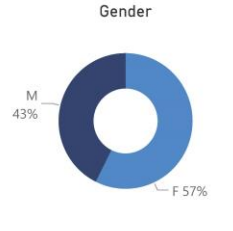
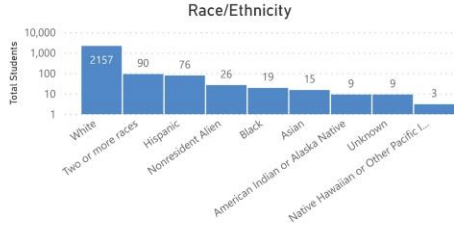
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2023 Legislative Impact for Representative Ann Wagner

Total Students Served	Total Degrees & Certificates Awarded	Total Graduates	Pell Recipients	Average Pell Award
2404	422	375	676	\$3,291



School District	Total Students	% of Total Students
Washington School District	875	36.4%
Union R-XI School District	661	27.5%
St. Clair R-XIII School District	278	11.6%
Meramec Valley R-III School District	168	7.0%
Sullivan C-2 School District	123	5.1%
Warren County R-III School District	43	1.8%
Lonedell R-XIV School District	39	1.6%
Rockwood R-VI School District	36	1.5%
Gasconade County R-II School District	31	1.3%
New Haven School District	30	1.2%
Spring Bluff R-XV School District	20	0.8%
Franklin County R-II School District	18	0.7%
Wright City R-II of Warren County	16	0.7%
Strain-Japan R-XVI School District	11	0.5%
Francis Howell R-III School District	10	0.4%
Wentzville R-IV School District	10	0.4%
Gasconade County R-I School District	8	0.3%
Parkway C-2 School District	6	0.2%
Lindbergh School District	4	0.2%
Mehlville R-IX School District	4	0.2%
Valley Park School District	4	0.2%
Fort Zumwalt R-II School District	3	0.1%
Kirkwood R-VII School District	2	0.1%
Afton 101 School District	1	0.0%
Bayless School District	1	0.0%
Maplewood-Richmond Heights School District	1	0.0%
Summersville R-II School District	1	0.0%

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Planning Your Meeting: Content

- What are your high priority asks?
- What arguments and anecdotes will you use to support the asks and what data will you share?
- It always helps to emphasize students!
- What are your member's policy interests and which committees do they serve on?

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Planning Your Meeting: Logistics

- Who will take on various roles and cover specific topics?
- Who will take notes?
- What are your leave-behinds and who will bring them?
- Who will do follow up?

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Planning Your Meeting: Tips

- Leave enough time between meetings to get from one place to another.
 - The Congressional campus is large! With security, it can take 15 to 20 minutes or even more to go from House to Senate and vice versa
- Arrive early if possible! Member schedules are fluid. Legislators may not be able to wait for you.
 - If a prior meeting runs late, update the next office as soon as possible
- Be flexible -- Hill offices are small, especially on the House side.
 - If you're meeting with staff only, you may meet at their desk or in a hallway 😊.
- Time may be limited, cover your top priorities first.

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Thank You! See You Next Week!

- Additional resources to prepare for NLS can be found on the “Preparing for NLS” tab of the nls.acct.org website.
- [Sign up](#) for our Latest Action in Washington updates at publicpolicy@acct.org or by visiting www.acct.org/advocacy or www.now.acct.org
- Sign up for Community College Daily at <https://www.aacc.nche.edu/publications-news/community-college-daily-feed/>
- “Advocates in Action” Lobbying Seminar in DC September 16-17 (AACC meeting)

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