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Leadership and Advocacy

March 17, 2016

Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Thad Cochran
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Room S128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Room S128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Cochran and Ranking Members Lowey and Mikulski:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing the full spectrum of American higher education, we write to request your support for the critical programs under your authority that serve students, institutions and researchers.

We appreciate the challenges your committees face in setting appropriations levels across a multitude of worthy programs and are grateful for your efforts to preserve funding for student aid, institutional support and research programs in a challenging fiscal climate. These efforts recognize the fact that support for postsecondary education and research builds a stronger economic base for our country, returning short- and long-term rewards on the federal investment.

While last year's budget deal and subsequent omnibus allowed for the partial restoration of funding to many of these programs, several of the programs identified below have not seen funding restored to pre-sequester levels, and all of the programs have substantial need if they are to best serve students and families.

Student Aid

As the cornerstone of federal financial aid, it is critical that Congress fund the discretionary portion of Pell Grant Program at a level sufficient to maintain the scheduled increase in the maximum award to \$5,935. In order to ensure the stability of the program, we also request that the current annual inflation increase be made permanent. We strongly support the restoration of year-round Pell eligibility for students at all enrollment levels, to provide

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necessary funding for students studying throughout the academic calendar to accelerate their progress. Finally, we commend the administration for its Pell Bonus and Second Chance Pell proposals and encourage Congress to examine ways to address the goals it has identified.

We also strongly encourage Congress to use the recent extension to the Perkins Loan Program to revisit ways to improve and fully restore the program, including the restoration of graduate student eligibility.

For the other financial aid programs, we would request:

Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG): A total of \$757 million, which is an increase of \$24 million above FY 2016 appropriations.

Federal Work Study (FWS): A total of \$990 million, which is level with FY 2016 funding.

The Federal TRIO Programs: A total of \$980 million, which is an increase of \$80 million above FY 2016 appropriations.

The Federal GEAR UP Program: A total of \$343 million, which is an increase of \$20 million above FY 2016 appropriations.

Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN): A total of \$31 million, which is an increase of \$1.7 million above FY 2016 appropriations.

Institutional Support, Career and Technical Education and Other Programs

The programs listed below provide critical support for institutions serving historically underserved populations (including historically black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, tribal colleges and universities, and others), career and workforce training programs, specialized academic studies as well as initiatives to improve completion and performance.

For these programs, we request:

Strengthening Institutions (Title III, Part A): A total of \$95 million, which is \$8 million above FY 2016 appropriations.

Strengthening Institutions - Tribal Colleges and Universities (Title III, Part A, Sec. 316): A total of \$60 million, which is \$4 million above FY 2016 appropriations.

Strengthening Institutions - Historically Black Colleges (Title III, Part B, Sec. 323; Discretionary Funding): A total of \$267 million, which is \$22 million above FY 2016 appropriations.

Strengthening Institutions - Historically Black Colleges (Title III, Part F; Sec. 371; Mandatory Funding): A total of \$85 million, which is \$6 million above FY 2016 appropriations.

Strengthening Institutions - Historically Black Graduate Institutions (Title III, Part B, Sec. 326): A total of \$69 million, which is \$6 million above FY 2016 appropriations.

Strengthening Institutions - Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs; Discretionary Funding): A total of \$11 million, which is \$1 million above FY 2016 appropriations.

Strengthening Institutions - Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs; Mandatory Funding): A total of \$15 million, which is \$1 million above FY 2016 appropriations.

Developing HSI STEM and Articulation Programs (Title III, Part F, Sec. 371(b)(2)(B); Mandatory Funding): A total of \$100 million, which is \$7 million above FY 2016 appropriations.

Developing Hispanic-serving Institutions (Title V, Part A): A total of \$117 million, which is \$9 million above FY 2016 appropriations.

Promoting Post-baccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans (Title V, Sec. 512): A total of \$20 million, which is \$10 million above FY 2016 appropriations.

Masters Degree Programs at HBCUs and PBIs (Title VII, Mandatory Funding): A total of \$11.5 million, which is \$11.5 million above FY 2016 appropriations.

Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program (MSEIP): A total of \$11 million, which is \$1.3 million above FY 2016 appropriations.

HBCU and MSI Innovation for Completion Fund: A total of \$30 million, which is \$30 million above FY 2016 appropriations.

College Opportunity and Graduation Bonuses (Mandatory Funding): A total of \$548 million, which is \$548 million above FY 2016 appropriations.

Howard University: A total of \$250 million, which is \$28 million above FY 2016 appropriations.

HBCU Capital Financing (Loan Subsidies): A total of \$25 million, which is \$4.5 million above FY 2016 appropriations.

HBCU Capital Financing (New Loan Volume): A total of \$390 million, which is \$88 million above FY 2016 appropriations.

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First In The World: A total of \$100 million, which is \$100 million above FY 2016 appropriations, with up to \$30 million set-aside for minority-serving institutions.

International Education and Foreign Language Studies (Title VI): A total of \$78.5 million, which is \$6.5 million above FY 2016 appropriations.

Institute of Education Sciences (IES): A total of \$694 million, which is \$76 million above FY 2016 appropriations.

Adult Basic and Literacy Education State Grants (AEFLA): A total of \$595 million, which is \$13 million above FY 2016 appropriations.

Career, Technical, and Adult Education State Grants: A total of \$1.123 billion, which is \$5.4 million above FY 2016 appropriations.

Teacher Quality Partnerships (TQP): A total of \$43 million, which is level with FY 2016 appropriations.

Research Programs

Federal support for research and development is an essential component to maintaining America's leadership in the innovation economy, allowing us to compete and succeed in the global marketplace. The research performed on college campuses provides countless benefits to the economy of our nation and the well-being of our citizens. We urge your committees to continue the investments made in FY 2016 and provide the following increases to important scientific research programs across multiple agencies:

ARPA-ED: A total of \$50 million, which is \$20 million above FY 2016 appropriations.

National Institutes of Health: A total of \$34.5 billion, which is \$2,400 million above FY 2016 appropriations.

National Science Foundation: A total of \$8 billion, which is \$536 million above FY 2016 appropriations.

NASA - Science: A total of \$5.908 billion, which is \$319 million above FY 2016 appropriations.

NASA - Aeronautics: A total of \$677 million, which is \$37 million above FY 2016 appropriations.

NASA - Space Technology: A total of \$796 million, which is \$109 million above FY 2016 appropriations.

Department of Agriculture - AFRI: A total of \$700 million, which is \$350 million above FY 2016 appropriations.

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Department of Energy - Office of Science: A total of \$5.672 billion, which is \$322 million above FY 2016 appropriations.

Department of Energy - ARPA-E: A total of \$350 million, which is \$56 million above FY 2016 appropriations.

As you consider programmatic funding levels for FY 2017 appropriations, we urge you to reaffirm Congress's historic, bipartisan commitment to postsecondary education and scientific research. We look forward to working with you to advance programmatic funding that meets the needs of America's students and our nation as a whole.

Sincerely,



Molly Corbett Broad
President

On behalf of:

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Council on Education
American Indian Higher Education Consortium
Association of American Universities
Association of Community College Trustees
Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Council for Christian Colleges and Universities
Council for Opportunity in Education
EDUCAUSE
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education
National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education
National Association of College and University Business Officers
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships
Thurgood Marshall College Fund
UNCF