



North Orange County
Community College District

FEDERAL

2018-2019
FEDERAL
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The North Orange County Community College District has identified five critically important federal legislative priorities to focus advocacy efforts on for 2018-19. Each priority has been carefully chosen to focus on results that will favor the District's student population, faculty, staff and long-term sustainability.

1. Engage in the Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

Two of California's premiere colleges and one of its most extensive continuing education programs combine to provide the quality education programming of the North Orange County Community College District. Over 85,000 students enroll each year at Cypress College, Fullerton College, and North Orange Continuing Education. Our college students are able to shape their futures in programs leading to associate degrees, vocational certificates, and transfer opportunities. Life-long learning is also possible in our continuing education programs that range from high school completion and basic skills mastery through an array of vocational training and self-development courses. These NOCCCD campuses and programs serve an area of over one million diverse people in 18 communities and unincorporated county areas and 16 school districts.

Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA) is important to the District as it governs federal financial aid programs. The HEA has been expired since 2013 and extended by Congress while debates over the reauthorization take place. Anticipated changes will likely include policy focused on accreditation, regulation reform, risk-sharing, student loans, and additional transparency.

It is important during reauthorization of the HEA that any changes to law reflect the diverse student population and interests of our students; over 56 percent of the student population of NOCCCD is female; over 44 percent is Hispanic; and the students range in ages from under 19 years to older than 70.

Legislative Goal:

- *Ensure that the reauthorization of the HEA supports community colleges and the specific needs of the "nontraditional" student population.*
- *Ensure all requirements and mandates included in any risk-sharing legislation align with community college's ability to comply and not adversely affect the student population.*
- *Ensure all requirements and mandates included in changes to Title IX enhance student safety and align with community colleges ability to comply and support the community college student population.*

2. Support Funding for Federal Student Financial Aid.

Federal financial aid consists of student loans and need-based financial aid, such as the Pell Grant, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG), and Federal Work-Study. Additional funding is available for institutional programs to support students needing assistance. These programs include the Strengthening Institutions Program, Hispanic Serving Institutions, Tribally Controlled Colleges, TRIO, GEAR UP, Predominantly Black Institutions, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and others.

Legislative Goal:

- *Support the American Association of Community College's (AACC) efforts to prioritize funding for Pell Grants and other need-based financial aid.*
- *Support policy that allows funding to provide for two years of free community college tuition for students.*
- *Support increased funding for higher education student aid and institutional aid programs.*

3. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and The Dream Act.

There are over 200,000 young people in California that received DACA status between 2012 and 2017, with approximately 60,000 of those young people enrolled at community colleges. NOCCCD supports the immediate enactment of legislation that will protect those eligible for DACA as well as the Dream Act, which will provide these students with long-term security and an opportunity to apply for U.S. citizenship.

Legislative Goals:

- *Preserve the DACA program.*
- *Support the Dream Act that establishes a path to citizenship for undocumented students who are long-time U.S. residents.*
- *Make Dreamers eligible for federal student financial assistance.*

4. Support funding for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

North Orange Continuing Education (NOCE) serves more than 30,000 students in the District per year and is the primary provider of adult education, or noncredit, programs in the region. The WIOA Title II funding provides English language and literacy skills acquisition programs to the most vulnerable populations, including immigrants seeking citizenship and low-income adults.

Legislative Goals:

- *Advocate for increased funding for WIOA Title II grants in the Fiscal Year 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill.*

5. Support Reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (CTE).

The Carl Perkins Act is a principal source of federal funding to states and discretionary grantees for the improvement of secondary and postsecondary career and technical education programs. Congress is in the process of reauthorizing the Act, which was last updated in 2006. This is a critical source of funding that is needed to sustain career and technical education programs.

Legislative Goals:

- *Support the reauthorization of the Perkins Act in the 115th Congress.*
- *Advocate for increased funding for CTE state grants in the FY 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill.*



NORTH ORANGE COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Contact Information:

Kai Stearns Moore, NOCCCD District Director of Public and Governmental Affairs,
714-808-4829

Ashley Walker, Policy Advisor, Nossaman LLP, 916-442-8888

nocccd.edu