The Policy Agenda for Independent Higher Education
Presenter

Barbara K. Mistick
President, National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)

$76.55 billion in COVID relief

~$14 billion to private, nonprofit colleges and universities and their students
HEERF: Continued Communications with Congress Essential

- Higher education spent its funds early and that needs to be articulated
- Provided critical relief to students and institutions
- Discuss ongoing challenges from pandemic
  - Mental health
  - Learning loss
  - Enrollment declines
  - Effects on institutional strength
The Policy Agenda for Independent Higher Education
Student Loan Forgiveness

**HEERF**

$76.55 billion in COVID relief

• ~$14 billion to PNPs and students

**Loan Relief**

$400 billion

• ~$142 billion to PNP borrowers
  • ~11 million

31% of borrowers receiving relief will be from PNPs, accounting for 39% of all cancelled loan volume
Fuel to the Fire: Student Loan Forgiveness

Supreme Court to hear 2 cases in February on legality

Elections make the issue even more political

- Young voters had strong turnout
- College students made a difference in many tight races
- Student debt relief a motivating campaign issue for young voters
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Evolving College Value Story

Tuition, Cost of Attendance, Value Targeted

Is College Worth It? Biden’s Loan-Forgiveness Plan Puts the Debate in Overdrive.

Lazy rivers and college costs: How Biden’s loan forgiveness subsidizes students’ play time

Student Debt’s Impact on Perceived Value of College

Younger Americans and those with student debt are far less likely than their peers to believe the benefits of getting a higher education outweigh the costs.
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Double Pell

WHY #DOUBLPELL?

1. Helps 6.9 million students pay for college each year
2. Fairest & most efficient way to help low-income and first-generation students
3. Over 80% of recipients from families with incomes of $40,000 or less
Double Pell

Enrolling similar proportions of Pell Grant recipients
Pell Grant recipients as a percentage of undergraduate enrollment at four-year colleges and universities

Private, Nonprofit: 41%
Public: 43%
Double Pell: Critical Component of a Pro Active Agenda

INCREASING THE PELL GRANT ENJOYS STRONG BIPARTISAN SUPPORT

Support “Expanding” Pell
- 77% Republicans
- 91% Democrats

Support “Doubling” Pell
- 66% Republicans
- 88% Democrats
QUESTIONS?
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Thank you