

TICUA Policy Update

February 13, 2015

State of the State Address is Good for Higher Education

During Monday evening's State of the State Address, Governor Bill Haslam outlined a number of higher education expansions and initiatives. Especially helpful for TICUA members was the \$10 million expansion of the Tennessee Student Assistance Award, the state's only purely need-based aid program. TICUA members will also be able to apply for two pools of funds which are designated to support adult learners and returning veterans. The Governor is proposing a pool of \$2.5 million to encourage adult learners with some college experience, but no degree, to attain a post-secondary credential and \$1 million in competitive funding to encourage higher education institutions to develop successful programs for veterans. The Governor went on to propose supporting the public institutions by fully funding the Complete College Tennessee Act formula and providing \$260 million for capital improvements.

House Splits Education Committee

In an attempt to increase the efficiency of education bills moving through the House of Representatives, the leadership decided to create two Education Committees with respective sub-committees. Most higher education issues will be assigned to the Education Administration and Planning Committee and the majority of K-12 issues will be dealt with in the Education Instruction and Programs Committee. Rep. Harry Brooks has been appointed Chair of Administration and Planning with Rep. Mark White chairing the sub-committee. Representative John Forgety is chair of Instruction and Programs with Rep. Roger Kane as Chair of the subcommittee.

Education Committee Assignments and Affiliations

Click here for a table which contains information related to the Senate and House Education Committee assignments along with their education affiliations.

http://www.ticua.org/public_policy/sm_files/Education%20Committee%20Members%202015.pdf

TICUA to Honor House and Senate Education Chairs

Education Chair Dolores Gresham and House Education Administration and Planning Chair Harry Brooks. Both Gresham and Brooks were key to mitigating the loss of lottery scholarship aid to students attending four year universities in order to fund the Tennessee Promise. Both Gresham and Brooks have been longstanding supporters of TICUA over the years.

TICUA will confer the 2015 TICUA Harold Bradley Legislative Leadership Award upon Chairman Brooks and the 2015 William Baird Legislative award upon Chairman Gresham during the 59th TICUA Annual Meeting to be held on February 17th. These are the highest state level awards for state legislators given by the Association.

SARA Legislation

Senator Dolores Gresham and Representative Harry Brooks are the sponsors for the State Authorization legislation which, if passed, will allow Tennessee to participate in NC-State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement. Staff from TICUA, TN Board of Regents, University of Tennessee, and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission have been briefing legislators on the nature of the bill which is expected to be on the committee calendars before the month's end.

If passed, TICUA member institutions could submit their online programs to the Tennessee portal for delivery in all states participating in SARA without state-by-state authorization. This measure is expected to save tens of thousands of dollars in fees as well as provide significant regulatory relief for member campuses.

Haslam to Attend TICUA Annual Meeting

Governor Bill Haslam has confirmed his attendance to the 59th TICUA Annual Meeting to be held next week on Tuesday and Wednesday, February 17 and 18, 2015. This year's theme is "Independent Higher Education: Preparing Students for an Ever-Changing World." Other speakers include Education Chairs Senator Dolores Gresham and Representative Harry Brooks, Finance Chairs Senator Randy McNally and Representative Charles Sargent, House Speaker Beth Harwell, and Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey. The TICUA Legislative Reception will conclude the events on the 17th. The morning of the 18th will include the President's Open Forum Breakfast.

Once again, this year's meeting will be held in the conference facilities of Waller, Lansden, Dortch & Davis in the Nashville City Center. The reception, however, will be held across the street from the Nashville City Center in the Ball Room of the Historic Hermitage Hotel.