

# TICUA Policy Update

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February 22, 2018

## **“Complete to Compete” Legislation On Hold**

Governor Haslam’s Complete College Tennessee 2018 legislative package which includes the “Complete to Compete” component is being held in both the House and Senate Education Committees. Central to the initiative is the “30 in 12” requirement which mandates students participating in the Tennessee Promise and Hope scholarship programs to complete 30 semester hours in 12 months. The goal is to keep students on track to graduate on time. Student aid from these two programs will be reduced if a student fails to complete 30 hours in a year. There is a provision in the bill, however, for students to use college credits earned in high school to apply to the 30 hour requirement, but the details of usage will need to be ironed out in the rulemaking process. The “30 in 12” requirement will not apply to the Tennessee Student Assistance Award.

TICUA is currently opposed to the bill in its current form. According to the State’s fiscal analysis, 7,936 students statewide will have their aid reduced if the bill becomes law. This includes students attending both public and private colleges and universities.

TICUA analysis of its members indicates that 29% of the TELS recipients would have a reduction in their scholarship aid under this proposal. It appears that students most negatively impacted will be those majoring in the sciences, math, art, are first-generation college students, or are athletes. A further analysis indicates that students from counties officially designated as “distressed” are disproportionately (35%) impacted by the proposed aid reduction.

TICUA continues express concerns about the negative implications to legislative members and their leadership. Just today TICUA received a request from the Governor’s office requesting a meeting next week to further discuss our concerns.

## **TICUA 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting a Success**

“Preparing for Political Change” was the theme of TICUA 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting which was held this week in Nashville. The meeting was attended by the vast majority of TICUA member Presidents, a handful of member campus Trustees, the Fellows of the TICUA Executive Leadership Institute, and the TICUA Board of Directors.

This year’s meeting was anchored by the TICUA Gubernatorial Forum which was attended by four of the six leading candidates. Candidates attending include, Randy Boyd, Karl Dean, Craig Fitzhugh, and Bill Lee. The afternoon was filled with back-to-back sessions led by Education Chairs Senator Dolores Gresham and Representative Harry Brooks, Senate Finance Chair Senator Bo Watson and House Vice Chair Representative Kevin Brooks, House Speaker Beth Harwell, and Lt. Governor Randy McNally. The TICUA Legislative Reception followed the day of sessions and was attended by over 60 legislators. Thank you to all who attended!

Mark the date for the 2019 **TICUA 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting** to be held on **February 19 and 20, 2019** in Nashville.