

TICUA Policy Update

January 30, 2018

Governor Haslam Delivers Final State of the State

On Monday evening, January 29th, Governor Bill Haslam delivered his final State of the State Address. During his comments, he reflected, “Seven years ago we raised our expectations. We became the kind of leaders who didn’t just talk about cutting taxes and enhancing services, we actually did lower taxes while growing our economy and providing access to high quality education. We cannot lose the momentum we have worked so hard to build.”

Haslam announced his “Compete to Complete” initiative for higher education which focuses on student success. The initiative will also serve as an effort to update many aspects of the Complete College Tennessee Act of 2010. You can find more about the Complete College Tennessee Act of 2018 here. <https://www.tn.gov/governor/2018-legislative-priorities/completion>

Key aspects to the Governor’s higher education package include:

- “30 in 12” which requires 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 for students to appeal to allow college credits earned in high school to apply to the 30 hour requirement, but the details of such an appeal will be ironed out in the rulemaking process. The “30 in 12” requirement will not apply to the Tennessee Student Assistance Award.
- Community Colleges will be required to develop a required course path for all entering Freshman. The goal of this policy is to keep students on track with completing their general education requirements as soon as possible.
- \$10 million improvement to the Tennessee Student Assistance Award. This will bring the program’s funding to an historic high of over \$100 million.
- Provides one new counselor for each of Tennessee’s community colleges and a coordinator position at the TBR office.
- \$1.25 million to support the high school to college counselor network.
- \$1 million for a TBR modular lab to assist students from distressed counties gain access to college.
- \$750,000 for expansion of the SAILS college remediation program.
- \$500,000 for support of the summer college remediation Bridge program.

The Governor’s package was filed with the Tennessee General Assembly today. It will now move through the legislative policy and budgetary process.

Remember to Register: TICUA 62nd Annual Meeting February 20 and 21

“Preparing for Political Change” is the theme of the upcoming TICUA 62nd Annual Meeting to be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, February 20 and 21, 2018. This year’s agenda will feature a Tennessee Gubernatorial Forum to allow the 2018 candidates to outline their higher education agenda. As well, we have invited key policy leaders to come visit with us about the future of higher education in Tennessee. Invitations have been extended to the Governor Bill Haslam, US Senator Lamar Alexander, Lt. Governor Randy McNally, House Speaker Beth Harwell, Senate Education Chair Dolores Gresham, House Education Chair Harry Brooks, Senate Finance Chair Bo Watson, and House Finance Chair Charles Sargent. The TICUA Legislative Reception will conclude the events on the 21st. The morning of the 22nd will include the President’s Open Forum Breakfast. Once again, this year’s events will be held in the conference facilities of Waller, Lansden, Dortch & Davis in the Nashville City Center.

Register today by going to http://www.ticua.org/meetings_resources/annual_meeting

Going to DC for the NAICU Annual Meeting?

TICUA will once again make arrangements to visit the offices of Tennessee's delegates to Congress during the upcoming NAICU Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. The meeting will be held on Sunday through Wednesday, February 4-7, 2018. Hill visits are being scheduled for Tuesday, February 6th and will be followed by the **Congressional Independent College Caucus** reception in the Kennedy Caucus Room (325 Russell Senate Office Building) from 5 to 8 pm. If you plan to attend the NAICU Annual Meeting or will be in DC during that period and wish to join the visits please contact Dr. Claude Pressnell (pressnell@ticua.org).