



July 8, 2015

The Honorable Robert Scott
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: America's College Promise Act

Dear Congressman Scott:

We are writing to you as the presidents and chief executive officers of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC), the Asian American and Pacific Islander Association of Colleges and Universities (APIACU), the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), and the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO), working collaboratively as *The Alliance for Equity in Higher Education*. We represent the nation's 37 Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), 180 Asian American and Pacific Islander Colleges and Universities (AAPICU), 409 Hispanic-serving Institutions (HSIs) and 156 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs). Our member institutions are 2 and 4 year colleges and universities across six Carnegie classifications. They represent diverse students in 44 states in the contiguous United States as well as Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, the Northern Marianas, American Samoa and the freely associated states in the Pacific. The histories and missions of the institutions we represent may differ; however, collectively they are continuing to do the best job of providing access to high quality postsecondary education opportunities to the growing populations of color in America, low income and first generation students. As the national organizations representing these institutions, their students and their communities, we are united in our commitment to educational excellence, access and success, and in our request for the federal resources required to attain this.

We write to thank you for your leadership in advancing America's College Promise Act. It is a good idea to remove financial barriers and expand educational opportunities for 10 million American students seeking 2 year degree and certificates. The bill would expand educational opportunities for tens of millions of students wishing to earn a 2 or 4 year degree but for whom the financial burden might be a barrier. We write in strong support of the America's College Promise Act.

We are pleased that the legislation includes *all* otherwise eligible low income students – including undocumented students and others who may not be Pell eligible, but whose financial need is great. The America's College Promise Act should and does allow for all students demonstrating a financial need to be eligible for the program.

We look forward to working with you and a broad and diverse group of members of the House in securing passage of this legislation. Do not hesitate to contact us through Luis Maldonado, HACU's Chief Advocacy Officer, at luis.maldonado@hacu.net or 202-261-2087, or Serena Dávila, HACU's Executive Director of Legislative Affairs, at serena.davila@hacu.net or 202-261-2091.



We thank you, again, for shaping a strong America's Promise Act that balances myriad issues and interests for the good of the nation. We thank you for your continued leadership on these and other important issues of educational excellence, access and success.

Sincerely,



Antonio Flores, Ph.D.
President & CEO, HACU



Carrie L. Billy, Esq.
President & CEO, AIHEC



Lezli Baskerville, Esq.
President & CEO, NAFEO



Hon. Ruby G. Moy
President & CEO, APIACU

