

## **A Call to Reforge the Historic Compact Between Higher Education and the Federal Government**

The longstanding partnership between the federal government and colleges and universities has made American higher education the envy of the world and an engine of national progress and prosperity. All Americans, whether they went to college or not, have benefited from this compact. The results are embedded in the smartphones they hold in their hands, the cars they drive, the medical care they receive when they need it most, and the inventions that power our world-leading economy.

The undersigned associations represent those colleges and universities and the communities they serve. On behalf of tens of millions of students, educators, researchers, and administrators nationwide, we oppose recent government actions that jeopardize this partnership. We urge the administration to work with us to reforge this compact and advance our shared national interests.

The entire country benefits when policymakers and higher education leaders respect a common understanding of the vital role colleges and universities play in advancing the social, cultural, and economic well-being of the United States. Institutions welcome and support students from all backgrounds; compete to train and support the best researchers; and work to meet the needs of our government and the public. In turn, the government has always respected the rights of campuses, enshrined in law, to decide whom they enroll, what they teach, and how they choose to teach.

This balance is dangerously disrupted when billions of dollars in funding for education and competitively awarded research grants are held hostage for political reasons and without due process. Release of funds obligated to institutions should not be conditioned on which students universities admit, what kinds of academic programs they offer, and how they organize and oversee their faculty. Campuses should not be attacked for building communities that reflect their missions and the broad diversity of this country. Students and scholars should not fear deportation just for exercising their right to speak freely.

There is a better way. Higher education can and must improve to earn and maintain the public's trust. But political attacks against higher education only divide and weaken us all. We call on the administration to join with colleges and universities to move forward by renewing and expanding the partnership that is essential for building a stronger America.

Achieving the Dream

ACPA-College Student Educators International

American Association of Colleges and Universities

American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

American Association of Colleges of Nursing

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers

American Association of University Professors

American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges

American College Health Association  
American Council on Education  
Association for Institutional Research  
Association for Student Conduct Administration  
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
Association for the Study of Higher Education  
Association of American Law Schools  
Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities  
Association of College and University Housing Officers-International  
Association of College Unions International  
Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges  
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities  
Association of Research Libraries  
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry  
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health  
Association on Higher Education and Disability  
Campus Compact  
Complete College America  
Council for Advancement and Support of Education  
Council for Higher Education Accreditation  
Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education  
Council of Graduate Schools  
Council on Social Work Education  
EDUCAUSE  
Higher Education Loan Coalition  
Higher Learning Commission  
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities  
Middle States Commission on Higher Education  
NAFSA: Association of International Educators  
NASPA-Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education  
National Association for College Admission Counseling  
National Association of Campus Card Users  
National Association of College and University Business Officers  
National Association of Colleges and Employers  
National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education  
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators  
National Council of University Research Administrators  
New England Commission of Higher Education  
NIRSA: Leaders in Collegiate Recreation  
NODA-Association for Orientation, Transition and Retention in Higher Education  
Phi Beta Kappa Society  
Society for College and University Planning  
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges  
UPCEA  
WASC Senior College and University Commission