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May 7, 2019

Rep. Nita Lowey Chairwoman Committee on Appropriations United States House of Representatives H-307, The Capitol Washington, DC 20515 Rep. Kay Granger Ranking Member Committee on Appropriations United States House of Representatives 1016 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Granger,

On behalf of the associations listed below, representing college leaders, educators and professionals, we write offering our strong support for the FY2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill passed out of subcommittee last week.

The funding levels provided in this bill would, if enacted, have a profoundly positive impact on the millions of college students who rely on federal financial aid to afford college. The bill provides a \$150 increase in the maximum Pell Grant, an increase that allows the grant to keep pace with inflation. In addition, it provides substantial increases for the Federal Work Study and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant programs, which provide grant and work-based aid to low-income students.

Critical increases for programs such as TRIO, GEAR UP, Title VI international education, CCAMPIS, Teacher Quality Partnerships and the Titles III and V programs for historically black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions will lead to greater affordability and higher quality postsecondary education. We were also pleased to see that the bill includes \$150 million in new funding for community colleges to provide training and employment assistance under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

The bill also recognizes the vital role biomedical research plays in improving the quality of life for all Americans, while also strengthening our economy and global competitiveness, by providing a \$2 billion increase in funding for research at the National Institutes of Health. Support for this research pays benefits in both the short-and long-term, and is smart investment in our nation's research system.

We thank you for the efforts made on behalf of higher education and medical research in this bill, and encourage your members to vote in support.

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Sincerely,

Ted Mitchell President

On behalf of:

**ACPA-College Student Educators International** 

**ACT** 

American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers

American Association of Community Colleges

American Association of State Colleges and Universities

American Council on Education

American Dental Education Association

American Indian Higher Education Consortium

Association of American Medical Colleges

**Association of American Universities** 

Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities

Association of Community College Trustees

Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges

Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities

Association of Public and Land-grant Universities

Association of Research Libraries

Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area

Council for Advancement and Support of Education

Council for Christian Colleges & Universities

Council for Opportunity in Education

**Council of Graduate Schools** 

Council of Independent Colleges

Council on Governmental Relations

**EDUCAUSE** 

Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities

NAFSA: Association of International Educators

NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education

National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education

National Association of College and University Business Officers

National Association of Colleges and Employers

National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities

National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

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National Council for Community and Education Partnerships TMCF UNCF UPCEA