

AASCU Analyzes State of the State, Inaugural and Budget Addresses

AASCU analyzed 46 state of the state, inaugural and budget addresses delivered since the beginning of this year to examine how state leaders view higher education and how their policies could affect students and institutions of higher education. The remaining four addresses (from Montana, North Carolina, Nevada and Texas) will not occur this year.

The following themes were most prominent in this year's gubernatorial addresses:

➤ **Investment in higher education continues to vary vastly from state to state.** With several governors approaching term limits, many of this year's speeches focused on praising their administration's increased investment in education, and other governors commended their state's colleges and universities for persevering through recent budget cuts. Numerous governors called for additional funding for higher education and underscored the need for a highly educated workforce to achieve greater economic prosperity.

- **Governors continue to emphasize career and technical education and educational opportunities beyond the traditional bachelor's degree.** Governors remain interested in promoting higher education through participation in career and technical education programs and alternative models—such as apprenticeships, competency-based education and coding boot camps—as cost-effective approaches to quickly further residents' job prospects and to close the state's skills gap. Governors in many states called for increased funding of these programs and applauded the public-private partnerships between colleges and industry.
- **College affordability remains a cornerstone of many gubernatorial policy agendas.** Many speeches lamented the growing financial burden placed on students and their families in higher education. In response, some proposed tuition freezes. Others called for expanding dual enrollment programs to shorten time-to-degree and proposed tuition-free programs for certain populations of students, such as returning adults, veterans and prisoners.

To read the full *2018 State of the State Addresses and Higher Education* report, visit this site:
www.aascu.org/policy/state-policy/2018StateoftheStates.pdf.

Quick Tips for Presidents:

Meeting Management

- ✓ **Distribute agendas enough in advance to invite additions**
 - This helps you learn what issues are important to your team.
- ✓ **Deal with important matters first**
 - Announcements can wait—they should not eat up valuable discussion time.
- ✓ **Distribute "air time"**
 - Resist letting a few participants dominate the discussion. Try to engage everyone in the room.
- ✓ **End with a question: Was this meeting worth your time?**

Howard Cohen, AASCU-Penson Center for Professional Development

AASCU's President Honored with Leadership Award

The American Association of Blacks in Higher Education (AABHE) honored AASCU President Dr. Mildred García with the 2018 Harold Delaney Exemplary Leadership Award. The presentation took place March 27 at the AABHE national conference in New Orleans.

The award goes to individuals whose lives and careers have helped to advance issues of access and opportunities for Black Americans in higher education. Delaney served as executive vice president of AASCU for 10 years. García is the first Latina to win this award.



Frontier Set Convening Focuses on Progress

The Frontier Set is a national collaborative of 29 colleges and universities and two state systems of higher education. Its Annual Convening: Accelerating Progress was held March 19-20 in Atlanta, Ga. This was a chance for all 29

institutions, two state systems and support partners, including the American Institutes for Research, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and Venture Well, to convene.

AASCU Frontier Set sites and five team members from each institution attended, and the convening enabled team connections across the Frontier Set network. Teams also participated in an Annual Poster Gallery that focused on three solution areas: Digital Learning, Developmental Education and Redesigned Advising.





2018 Public Policy Agenda Will Help Members Navigate Challenges

AASCU's 2018 *Public Policy Agenda* (PPA), crafted by the Council of State Representatives, highlights AASCU's policy priorities for the coming year. We hope this written framework will assist our members, other interested organizations, and federal and state policymakers in navigating the challenges ahead, and we encourage AASCU members to use the PPA during visits with legislators either at home or in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit www.aascu.org/policy/public-policy/.

Visits to the Hill

In late February, AASCU's president, Dr. Mildred García, undertook a series of meetings with key congressional leaders involved in higher education policy. In separate meetings with the respective chairs and ranking members of the House and Senate education committees, García presented Representatives Virginia Foxx (R-NC), Bobby Scott (D-VA) and Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN) with the association's 2018 *Public Policy Agenda*, and discussed how AASCU can support the committees' efforts to reauthorize the Higher Education Act of 1965. García also met with Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) in March.

The Division of Government Relations and Policy Analysis also hosted the annual Council of State Representatives (CSR) spring meeting in April. Activities included Hill meetings on the Senate's approach to reauthorizing the Higher Education Act of 1965 and meeting with Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI) to discuss his Debt-Free College bill and implementing a federal-state partnership.



| AASCU staff and the Council of State Representatives on Capitol Hill, April 2018.



Communications Conference Examines How to Advance Public Higher Education in Turbulent Times

More than 50 senior communications professionals at state colleges and universities across the nation gathered at AASCU's headquarters in Washington, D.C., in March to discuss turbulent and controversial issues public higher education institutions face and to explore how to communicate effectively in challenging times.

Sessions at the 2018 Communications Conference for Senior Professionals included keynote speeches from Frederick Lawrence, lawyer, civil rights scholar and CEO of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, and pollster John Zogby on freedom of speech on college campuses and public opinion toward higher education, respectively; lessons learned and best practices from public higher education institutions that responded to racially charged incidents, freedom of speech issues, police violence, sexual assault and harassment, and/or political unrest; and a panel on how to get op-eds placed. Attendees also had time to network, discuss their reactions to information presented during sessions, exchange ideas, and attend editorial visits to *Inside Higher Ed* and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Statements by AASCU President, Mildred García, Ed.D., on the Debt- Free College Act and Omnibus Appropriations Agreement



In March, AASCU's president, Dr. Mildred García, praised Senator Schatz and the original cosponsors of the Debt-Free College Act for offering a legislative solution to the college-cost problem that correctly identifies state disinvestment in public higher education as the greatest threat to college affordability. Their proposed federal-state matching grant program providing for debt-free college could reverse decades of privatization by aligning federal, state and individual incentives, she stated. Visit this link for the full statement: www.aascu.org/Statement/2018debtfreecollegeact/.

García also announced AASCU's support for the bipartisan Congressional agreement on appropriations for the remainder of the current fiscal year. She applauded the increases to the maximum Pell Grant award, campus-based aid programs, minority-serving institutions, and other programs that are critically important to AASCU students and institutions. The agreement includes eligibility modifications to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, too, which will further benefit student borrowers.

AASCU was profoundly disappointed that a legislative fix for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) was not part of this package. Given the broad national support for legalizing the status of Dreamers, we once again urge Congress to act in a bipartisan manner on DACA and legislate a permanent fix. Read the full statement here: www.aascu.org/Statement/2018Omnibus/.

Leading Academic Change: Vision, Strategy, Transformation. Elaine P. Maimon. Sterling, VA: Stylus Publishing, 2018. 166 pp. \$29.95 —Thomas Harnisch

In *Leading Academic Change: Vision, Strategy, Transformation*, Governors State University (Ill.) President Elaine Maimon draws on decades of experience in higher education to provide a useful guidebook for transforming colleges and universities—particularly AASCU members—into institutions better focused on learning and serving the needs of today's students. As a college leader on the front lines of the historic Illinois budget impasse, Maimon acknowledges the daunting challenges confronting AASCU institutions, but urges college presidents and others on campus to “control the controllable” through embracing high-impact practices; challenging longstanding yet self-defeating norms; and committing to college access and success for all students, including those from underserved populations.

Her call for transformation in the academy is grounded in 12 principles, including placing the best faculty in foundation-level courses; reallocating budgets and pursuing transformation in all environments, including those with unionized faculty; and insisting that a quality

undergraduate education is possible without deep debt. Based on these principles, the book chapters do not shy away from offering solutions to some of the biggest challenges in higher education: improving remediation; enhancing quality; better aligning community college and four-year universities; and creating an integrated, coherent undergraduate program.

With dozens of new presidents set to take office this summer at AASCU institutions, workable solutions built on the foundation of clear principles, academic research and practitioner experience are needed to address the multitude of problems confronting public higher education today. The ideas set forth in *Leading Academic Change: Vision, Strategy, Transformation* are a great place to start.

Upcoming Events

June 1-5

2018 Millennium
Leadership Initiative
Institute
Washington, D.C.

June 2-5

The Emerging Leaders
Program
Washington, D.C.

June 6-9

2018 Civic Learning &
Democratic Engagement
Meeting
Hyatt Regency
Orange County in
Anaheim, Calif.

July 7-10

2018 Summer Council of
Presidents
Santa Fe, N.M.

July 26-28

2018 Academic Affairs
Summer Meeting
Seattle, Wash.

July 30 - Aug. 3

2018 New Presidents
Academy
San Diego, Calif.

AASCU JOBS PORTAL

Your Portal to Jobs in Higher Education

Looking for a career in higher education
or to post job opportunities?

Check out AASCU's new jobs portal at:
careers.aascu.org