

Statements by AASCU President Mildred García, Ed.D., on the Supreme Court’s Travel Ban Ruling and the House’s Rejection of the Immigration Bill



On June 26, the Supreme Court upheld Presidential Proclamation 9645, which imposed restrictions on the entry of citizens of eight countries into the United States. AASCU was one of the higher education associations that submitted an amicus brief in support of the state of Hawaii and in opposition to the Trump administration, and after the Supreme Court ruling, AASCU President

Dr. Mildred García issued a statement expressing dismay about the court’s decision.

“This decision will damage the nation’s public institutions by restricting the free movement of qualified individuals,” she stated. “Worse yet, it undermines America’s global standing as a beacon of openness and freedom to all people.” Read the full statement: www.aascu.org/Statement/2018TravelBanRuling/.

García also released a presidential statement on June 27 about the House rejecting the immigration bill. What was initially slated to be a series of votes on different proposals addressing the plight of the Dreamers in the House of Representatives had been transformed into a GOP compromise bill—the Border Security and Immigration Reform Act of 2018—that cast a wider net over a much broader range of immigration issues than was originally planned.

The legislation made a series of changes to our immigration laws—not all of which, including the DACA provisions, were necessarily ideal from AASCU’s perspective. However, as stated in a coalition letter to Speaker Ryan that AASCU signed with nine other higher education associations, this was “an opportunity to move the legislative process forward.” AASCU was hopeful that advancing this legislation would provide us with opportunities to improve the bill if the Senate chose to act on it.

“Codification of existing DACA rules into law would be the weakest acceptable policy remedy for the Dreamers, and this GOP effort fell short of that,” García wrote in her presidential statement. “Sadly, prolonging the agony of Dreamers appears to be entirely consistent with other aspects of our political leaders’ immigration policies.” Read the full statement: www.aascu.org/statement/HouseImmigrationVote/.

Upcoming Events

August 14 – September 20

2018 GRC Webinar Series

October 28 – 30

2018 Annual Meeting

Washington, D.C.

December 5 – 7

2018 Higher Education Government Relations Conference

Atlanta, Ga.

Policy Primer Analyzes Risk-sharing Proposals for Student Financial Aid

Risk-sharing proposals for federal student loans have gained support among key policymakers on Capitol Hill, the Trump administration, scholars and policy analysts. These proposals would require that institutions share a portion of the non-repayment costs of federal student loans, ensuring that colleges and universities originating student loans have “skin in the game” for adverse outcomes.

There are concerns from many higher education associations that risk-sharing policies could lead to reductions in college access, affordability and quality, as well as unfairly hold institutions accountable for outcomes that are beyond their control.



AASCU released a policy brief, *Federal Risk-sharing Proposals for Student Financial Aid*, that examines the origins of these proposals, the current federal accountability framework, the challenges of constructing an equitable risk-sharing framework, and risk-sharing legislation on Capitol Hill. Read it here: www.aascu.org/policy/publications/aascu-special-reports/risksharing2018.pdf.

Dual Degree Program Holds Graduation Ceremony in China

This June marked the 15th graduation ceremony of the AASCU/CEAIE/CCIEE Sino American Dual Degree 1+2+1 program. Over 65 senior administrators from AASCU member campuses joined approximately 600 students, parents, university and government officials in Xian, China, to award degrees to 233 undergraduate and graduate students and participate in academic seminars.

Beginning in fall 2018, an estimated 670 new students will begin their studies on 27 AASCU 1+2+1 campuses. This is the highest number of students to receive visas since the beginning of the 1+2+1 program.

Between 2001 and 2018, AASCU generated over \$200 million in revenue for the host campuses, and in the next two years, this cohort of students will provide \$40 million in revenue to participating AASCU campuses. To date there are 157 institutions (122 Chinese and 35 AASCU) in the 1+2+1 program.



American Democracy Project Recognizes Outstanding Civic Leadership

More than 500 faculty, student affairs professionals, senior campus administrators, students and community partners joined together to attend the 2018 Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement (CLDE) Meeting in Anaheim, Calif., in early June. During the conference—organized by AASCU’s American Democracy Project (ADP), NASPA and The Democracy Commitment (TDC)—ADP recognized three individuals at AASCU member institutions with awards for their outstanding leadership in civic engagement. Congratulations to this year’s winners:

- ◆ **Dr. Vicki Golich**, provost and vice president for academic and student affairs at **Metropolitan State University of Denver** (Colo.), received the William M. Plater Award, which recognizes an AASCU chief academic officer for advancing the civic learning of undergraduates. Golich’s work includes creating a multi-initiative civic engagement program, introducing a high level-administrator position for “civic collaboration,” and adding civic learning into the university’s strategic plan.
- ◆ **Dr. Lance R. Lippert**, associate professor at **Illinois State University**, received this year’s Barbara Burch Award, given to recognize exemplary faculty leadership in advancing the civic learning and engagement of undergraduate students and the work of ADP on campus and/or nationally. One of Lippert’s most notable accomplishments includes transforming an ADP initiative into one the state’s first minors in civic engagement.
- ◆ **Dr. Nicholas Hartlep**, assistant professor at the **Metropolitan State University** (Minn.) School of Urban Education, received this year’s John Saltmarsh Award, which recognizes exemplary early-career leaders who are advancing the wider civic engagement movement through higher education to build a broader public culture of democracy. Hartlep’s achievements include collaborative efforts to tackle student loan debt, mentoring undergraduates and co-authoring publications with them, and groundbreaking scholarship in his field.



From left to right: Drs. Nicholas Hartlep, Vicki Golich and Lance Lippert hold up their civic leadership awards.

Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Dir. Stanley Nelson. Firelight Films, Inc., 2017.

—Reviewed by Dr. Elwood L. Robinson, Chancellor, Winston-Salem State University (N.C.)

The film *Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Historically Black Colleges and Universities* offers a perspective on the impact historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) have had on American history, culture and national identity. For African-Americans, this story has profound personal and cultural significance. I believe this film will be judged by its ability to stir genuine and authentic sentiments from both the institutions that are so beloved and the personal and emotional experiences of their alumni.

In an age where history is inconvenient, memory is an obstacle, and the past should stay in the past, issues related to the “survival” of HBCUs gain critical and acute urgency, answering the call for a new discourse reflecting the zeitgeist. The most significant aspect of this film is that it elevates the history, significance and importance of the HBCU experience by creating an opportunity for mainstream America to have access to this story. However, telling the individual stories of more than 100 distinct and unique HBCUs is a daunting challenge that the filmmakers did not tackle. Those looking for their favorite HBCU to receive a shout out from the documentarians will be disappointed.

The W.E.B. Du Bois/Booker T. Washington debate, while significant, appears to overshadow the premise on which many of

these institutions were founded and their evolution over the past 150-plus years. These institutions were created to provide a world-class education to recently emancipated slaves. They provided African-Americans the only opportunity for higher education from the time of the Civil War until the Civil Rights Act of 1964. These important facts are lost due to the decision to end the film with reflections on the struggling Morris Brown College (Ga.). As a result, the concept captured in the title—*Tell Them We Are Rising*—is not fully realized. A series of stories that share the grand vision of these institutions may have brought that concept to life.

At the end of the day, HBCUs are stories of “history as life lived”—in all its complexity, density and variety. These stories recognize the power of an ideal and provide future generations with a framework to integrate their experiences into the tapestry of this ever-evolving story. The historical significance of these institutions is that they stand as a testament to the freedom and dreams of a people who, though denied freedom in the American

sphere, never succumb to denying the freedom principle that is at the very core of our being. I don’t know if it is possible for any works to capture the profoundness of freedom, but this film certainly has created a platform for us to continue the conversation.



Report Outlines State Policy Updates from March to June 2018

AASCU released an update to its *Top 10 Higher Education State Policy Issues for 2018* report, originally published in January. The new briefing summarizes state higher education policy developments from March through June 2018.

Key state-level policy actions taken from March to June included the following:

- ◆ Lawmakers in numerous states exploring changes to their tax codes in response to the federal tax reform law;
- ◆ Uneven state funding outcomes for public higher education, which ranged from robust new investments to deep cuts;
- ◆ Moderate increases in tuition and fees approved by university governing bodies in a number of states;
- ◆ Mixed results for undocumented students, with expanded access to college in some states amid legislative and legal losses in others;
- ◆ Continued state- and system-level discussions and implementations of campus mergers; and
- ◆ New laws approved pertaining to speech on public college and university campuses.

Visit this site to view the full report: <http://www.aascu.org/policy/publications/policy-matters/July2018StatePolicyUpdate.pdf>.

AASCU STATE HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY UPDATE

MARCH-JUNE 2018

By Thomas L. Harnisch and Dylan Opalich

This report provides a summary of higher education state policy developments that occurred from March to June 2018. It tracks leading policy issues described in the *AASCU Top 10 State Policy Issues for 2018* and mentions other issues discussed at the state level.

01 Changes in Federal Law

State Responses to Federal Tax Reform

Reforms: States have continued to explore changes to their tax codes in response to the federal tax reform measure signed into law last year. State tax code revisions could have significant effects on available revenues for state services, including higher education. Because of the \$10,000 cap on state and local tax (SALT) deductions, some higher tax states have either implemented or are exploring workarounds that would provide tax relief for their residents. A state workarounds measure, for example, would be allowing towns and school districts to create charitable funds for public purposes and then providing tax credits for contributions to the charitable funds. This takes advantage of charitable deduction provisions in the federal tax code and bypasses constraints put in place in the new federal tax law.

State Attorney General Lawsuits

on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA): State attorneys general (AGs) have lined up on both sides of the debate concerning the future of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Led by Texas, seven state AGs filed lawsuits in early May challenging the legality of the DACA program. Conversely, some state AGs have been working to maintain the DACA program. The U.S. House of Representatives deliberated over two immigration bills in June but failed to pass either bill. A legislative resolution to the DACA program remains unlikely in 2018. While the Trump administration called for discontinuing the DACA program in March, federal courts have temporarily halted the end of the program. Numerous lawsuits related to the DACA program are working their way through the federal court system.

State Attorney General Lawsuits and For-Profit Colleges

In response to a lawsuit that the U.S. Department of Education is weakening its oversight of for-profit colleges, some state AGs have filed lawsuits. If the rulings in protect students from fraud and abuse. California and New Jersey are among the states with AGs vocal in opposing the Trump administration's approach to regulating this industry.

State Laws and Student Loan Servicers

In March, Education Secretary DeVos said that states should take steps to regulate student loan servicers. DeVos provided a legal interpretation arguing that the federal government's power preempted states on student loan industry oversight. In recent years, several states have passed measures providing new protections for student loan borrowers, and a few states have filed lawsuits claiming that student loan servicers engaged in deceptive practices.

Connecticut, New Jersey and New York

have approved workarounds measures, and other states, such as California, have discussed the

Quick Tips for Presidents: Engaging in Strategic Planning

- ✓ **Distribute agendas enough in advance to invite additions**
 - This helps you learn what issues are important to your team.
- ✓ **Keep in mind that strategic planning is as much a cultural experience as a technical exercise for your campus.**
 - You need to be and be seen as the leader of the effort from start to finish.
- ✓ **Set up and then operate a communication structure that invites comments throughout the planning exercise.**
 - Fulsome and timely information will help deal with rumors but not eliminate them.
 - Management by "walking around" will keep you in touch with the campus mood.
- ✓ **Regularly acknowledge the work of your strategic planning team.**
 - They need to know of your support and that you will stay in touch with their thinking.
- ✓ **Once the plan is completed, ensure it does—and is seen to—guide all key decisions going forward.**
 - No one wants hard work to gather dust on a shelf.

Stephen Reno, AASCU Pension Center for Professional Development
Stephen.reno@usnh.edu

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

AASCU Mourns the Passing of Dr. Gladys Styles Johnston

Dr. Gladys Styles Johnston, chancellor emerita of the University of Nebraska at Kearney and one of the founders and directors of AASCU's Millennium Leadership Initiative (MLI), passed away on June 20.

“My first encounter with Gladys was in 1999, as a protégé in MLI's first class. I learned quickly that Gladys was a true champion for America's state colleges and universities, and was fiercely dedicated to working to increase and ensure diversity in higher education leadership,” wrote AASCU's president, Dr. Mildred García, in a letter to AASCU members. “In fact, it was her drive, vision, creativity and ability to rally people around her that launched MLI and made it a success.”

In addition to serving for many years on AASCU's Board of Directors, Gladys was also a member of AASCU's Committee for Women Presidents and Chancellors, MLI Executive Steering Committee, Experienced Presidents Academy Advisory Team, and Rural Coalition.

AASCU is honored that Mr. Jack Kinsinger, Dr. Johnston's husband, has decided to start a scholarship, The Gladys Styles Johnston MLI Scholarship Fund, in her name for the program that she so dearly loved. To donate to the scholarship, please contact Edwin William, AASCU's accounts receivable accountant, at 202-478-4685.

“Gladys was our colleague and our mentor, inspiring us and our work for nearly two decades. She will be remembered by all of those with whom she has worked, most especially the AASCU presidents and hundreds of MLI protégés whose lives and careers she touched,” García wrote. “We will remember the kindness of her voice and the words that inspired so many. We will miss our friend.”

