

# The 2017 Gubernatorial State of the State Addresses and Higher Education

Compiled by Dylan Opalich, Assistant Director of State Relations and Policy Analysis

## Alabama

Gov. Robert Bentley (R)

State of the State Address | February 7, 2017

- Called for increased funding for student loan repayment programs for healthcare providers to combat the shortages of doctors and dentists across the state.

## Alaska

Gov. Bill Walker (I)

State of the State Address | January 18, 2017

- Noted the challenging economic climate due to Alaska's dependency on oil revenue, which has fallen by over 80 percent in the last four years; these shortfalls have necessitated spending cuts and a slimming of the state's government, including cuts to higher education.
- Called for thorough funding of education.
- Announced the State Board of Education's five priorities in reshaping the entire public education pipeline in order to prepare students for the challenges of the future, including improving student learning, ensuring excellent education, modernizing the system, inspiring tribal and community ownership, and promoting safety and well-being. Also, announced the State Board of

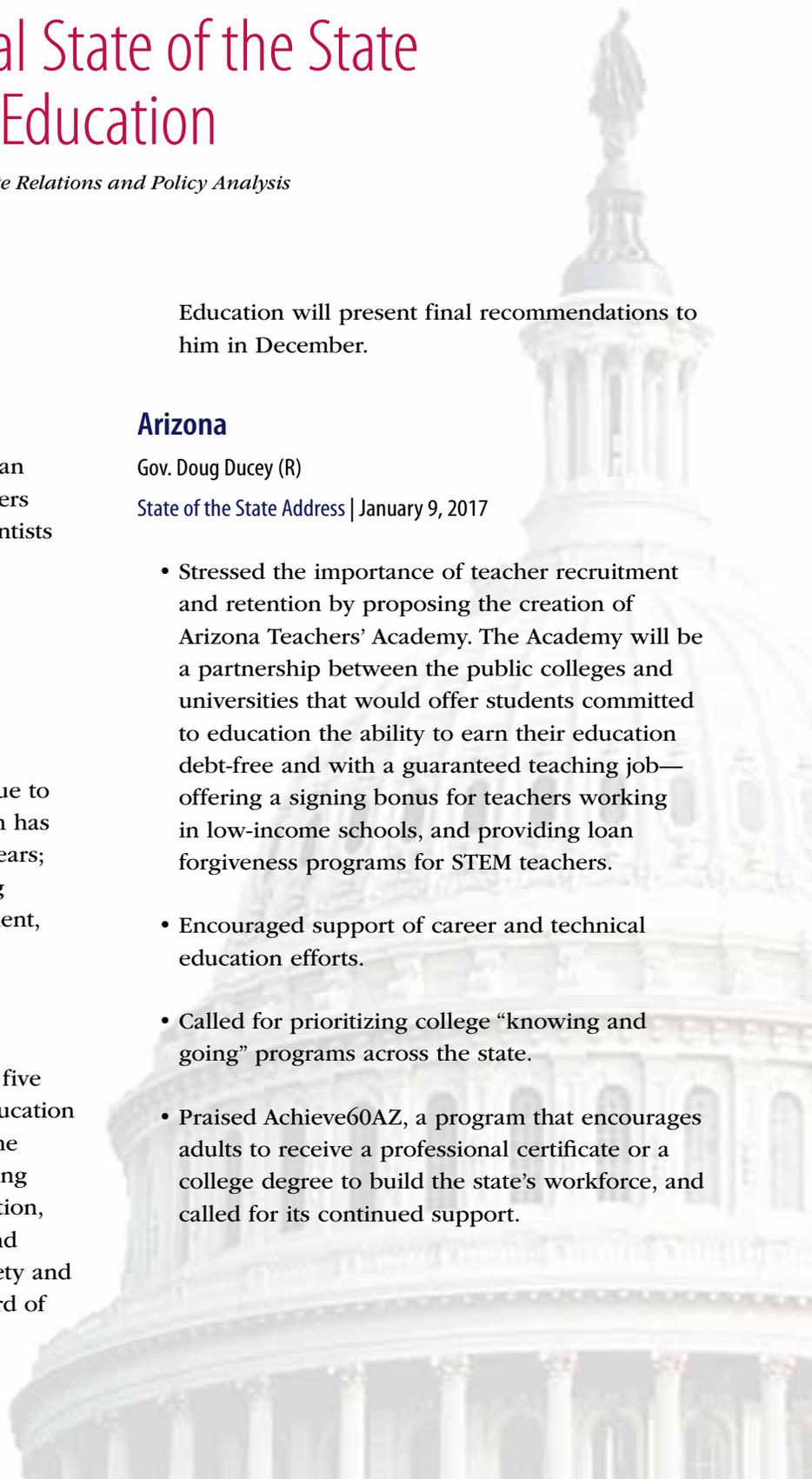
Education will present final recommendations to him in December.

## Arizona

Gov. Doug Ducey (R)

State of the State Address | January 9, 2017

- Stressed the importance of teacher recruitment and retention by proposing the creation of Arizona Teachers' Academy. The Academy will be a partnership between the public colleges and universities that would offer students committed to education the ability to earn their education debt-free and with a guaranteed teaching job—offering a signing bonus for teachers working in low-income schools, and providing loan forgiveness programs for STEM teachers.
- Encouraged support of career and technical education efforts.
- Called for prioritizing college “knowing and going” programs across the state.
- Praised Achieve60AZ, a program that encourages adults to receive a professional certificate or a college degree to build the state's workforce, and called for its continued support.



## Arkansas

Gov. Asa Hutchinson (R)

State of the State Address | January 10, 2017

- Promoted his intention to introduce legislation that alters the higher education funding formula to reward institutions based on student progress, opposed to the number of students enrolled.
- Asked for additional funding to implement the new funding formula.
- Proposed the ArFuture Grants, a program in which the state would cover tuition and mandatory fees for students pursuing a high-need job skill or degree in a two-year college program or technical school. The program requires the student to participate in a mentoring experience and work in Arkansas for three years after college.

## California

Gov. Jerry Brown (D)

State of the State Address | January 24, 2017

- Acknowledged the commitment California has made to ensure non-discriminatory access to higher education for undocumented immigrants.
- Applauded the tens of billions of dollars that have been added to support the public schools and universities.

## Colorado

Gov. John Hickenlooper (D)

State of the State Address | January 12, 2017

- Called for stronger career pathways that include technical training and skills certificates in

addition to four-year degrees.

- Applauded the support that public-private partnerships—such as Skillful and CareerWise Colorado, two programs that develop new skills for students and job seekers looking for new career opportunities—have received in the last 18 months through more than \$15 million in grants.
- Emphasized the achievements of the National Cybersecurity Center.
- Recognized teachers working to close the skills gap and contributing to Colorado’s status as a national model for skills-based training.

## Connecticut

Gov. Dannel Malloy (D)

State of the State Address | January 4, 2017

- Acknowledged the need to protect teachers’ and public servants’ benefits and pensions, despite insufficient resources due to the low financial contributions to the state’s pension systems by past administrations and legislatures.

## Delaware

Gov. John Carney (D)

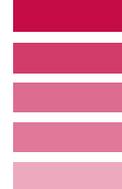
No address in 2017.

## Florida

Gov. Rick Scott (R)

State of the State Address | March 7, 2017

- Applauded the state colleges that offer \$10,000 degrees in “areas where our students can get a job.”
- Proposed abolishing the state sales tax on



college textbooks, an effort to make higher education more affordable.

- Discussed his intentions to pass a college affordability bill, with support from the legislature, that holds the line on graduate school tuition and increases transparency in university costs.
- Recommended investing \$30 million in high-skill workforce training, \$20 million in advanced workforce training at tech centers, and \$5 million to incentivize state colleges to offer \$10,000 STEM degrees.

## Georgia

Gov. Nathan Deal (R)

State of the State Address | January 11, 2017

- Gov. Deal did not mention higher education in his remarks.

## Hawaii

Gov. David Ige (D)

State of the State Address | January 23, 2017

- Asked for \$150 million for capital improvements at universities statewide.
- Emphasized the need to continue transforming Hawaii's economy through schools that equip students with the skills required to succeed in a knowledge-based industry.
- Praised the University of Hawaii for embracing innovation and launching creative initiatives.
- Proposed an expansion of the Early College Program to eventually be available in every public high school, affording all students the opportunity to earn college credits while in high school.

- Underlined the Hawaii Promise Program that aims to assist qualifying students with funding the gap between what their families can afford and the cost of community college.

## Idaho

Gov. Butch Otter (R)

State of the State Address | January 9, 2017

- Emphasized the education pipeline, spanning from kindergarten through career, by allocating an additional investment of \$5 million to college and career counseling.
- Prioritized expanding education programs for high-demand fields with K-through-career emphasis.
- Urged the legislature to continue to support the STEM Action Center, including a K-through-career initiative in computer science to help meet workplace demand while ensuring students are college and career ready.
- Called for funding a scholarship that incentivizes adults who have some college credits but have been away from the classroom for more than three years to return and finish their degree.
- Recommended transferring \$35 million to the Permanent Building Fund to improve facilities at Boise State University, University of Idaho, Lewis-Clark State College and Idaho State University.
- Encouraged numerous communities to consider the benefits and opportunities of establishing community colleges in historically underserved areas.
- Announced a budget request of \$2.4 million to expand medical residency programs to address Idaho's chronic shortage of health care professionals.

- Applauded the development of Idaho's first medical school, which will enroll its first class of students in 2018.

### Illinois

Gov. Bruce Rauner (R)

State of the State Address | January 25, 2017

- Highlighted the key goal of his administration to make Illinois' schools and vocational training the best in every community through increased investments.
- Recounted the actions of the administration that reduced bloat in state government, with the intention of putting every dollar saved toward education and human services.
- Praised the Illinois State Board of Education and the youth cabinet for expanding vocational training and apprenticeship programs to all high school students looking for an attractive career option.
- Emphasized that research and innovation at public research universities are critical to the creation of companies and wealth, and encouraged forming alliances with private research universities in the state to expand the state's research portfolio.

### Indiana

Gov. Eric Holcomb (R)

State of the State Address | January 17, 2017

- Introduced the Next Level Indiana Fund, a grant program that supports innovation and entrepreneurship initiatives within higher education and in local communities.
- Outlined a new investment of \$2 million in Jobs

Ready Grants to help current workers complete credentials or certificates in high-demand, high-wage fields.

- Stressed the need for a 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce created through workforce development programs, and would not only fill new jobs, but also replace the 700,000 baby boomers who will retire over the next 10 years.

### Iowa

Gov. Terry Branstad (R)

State of the State Address | January 10, 2017

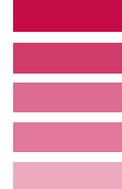
- Commended the advancement of a STEM initiative that equips students with 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and prepares them to be college and career ready.
- Established the Future Ready Iowa Alliance, which will make recommendations by October 31, 2017, to make strides toward the Future Ready Iowa attainment goal: 70 percent of Iowa's workforce with education and training beyond high school by the year 2025.
- Urged legislators to continue to support financially STEM initiatives, registered apprenticeships and work-based learning—programs that all grow Iowa's talent pipeline, despite budgetary constraints.

### Kansas

Gov. Sam Brownback (R)

State of the State Address | January 10, 2017

- Proposed three solutions to address the critical shortage of medical care professionals: budget request for \$5 million to start new residency programs, establish a privately funded doctor of osteopathy school, and develop a dental school



at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

- Announced a newly created scholarship program called TeachersKan that targets college students committed to teaching in high-priority disciplines or underserved communities after college.
- Encouraged the expansion of the existing tax exempt scholarship program, career and technical education programs, and education savings accounts, in order to broaden access to quality education.
- Challenged colleges and universities to provide an affordable (for \$15,000 or less) bachelor's degree, and offered a reward of 50 student scholarships to the institution that first creates the \$15,000 degree.

## Kentucky

Gov. Matt Bevin (R)

[State of the State Address](#) | February 8, 2017

- Stressed the connection between education and workforce development and how Kentucky needs to invest in education “where we can get good return on it as taxpayers,” with \$100 million appropriated for workforce development grants.
- Announced a move toward outcomes-based funding with more details forthcoming.
- Applauded the legislature’s \$15 million investment in dual credit programs.
- Thanked the legislature for their appropriation of \$500,000 for Kentucky’s apprenticeship program, which made the state eligible to receive \$896,000 in grants from the federal government.

## Louisiana

Gov. John Bel Edwards (D)

[State of the State Address](#) | April 10, 2017

- This address has not yet occurred. Once given, this document will be updated with additional information, including a link to the speech text.

## Maine

Gov. Paul LePage (R)

[State of the State Address](#) | February 7, 2017

- Noted the additional funding to the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and Maine Maritime Academy in order to keep tuition costs low.
- Proposed funding for zero-interest loans for college graduates who continue to live and work in Maine, and an opportunity for business owners who help pay off student loans to be able to write off the expenses quickly.

## Maryland

Gov. Larry Hogan (R)

[State of the State Address](#) | February 1, 2017

- Applauded record investments in higher education with \$1.35 billion allocated to the university system and more than \$256 million to Maryland’s community colleges.
- Called for an additional \$17.5 million to cap tuition increases at two percent, rather than the proposed five percent at 14 colleges and universities.
- Urged legislatures to pass the Student Debt Relief Act: allowing borrowers to deduct the entirety of

the interest paid on their student loans from their state income tax return.

### Massachusetts

Gov. Charlie Baker (R)

State of the State Address | January 24, 2017

- Praised the Commonwealth Commitment for creating a pathway to a bachelor's degree from University of Massachusetts or another state university for half the price.

### Michigan

Gov. Rick Snyder (R)

State of the State Address | January 17, 2017

- Commended Detroit Promise, a partnership with the mayor of Detroit to give students of Detroit opportunities at two- and four-year institutions of higher education, and called on the philanthropic and business communities to support the Promise.
- Praised the work of First Lady Sue Snyder in combatting campus sexual assault through educational summits, and providing \$500,000 in grants to 18 colleges and universities to improve campus safety.
- Noted a 14 percent increase in apprenticeship programs that must continue to grow to meet workforce demands.
- Highlighted the creation of CCSTEP, which provides resources for 18 community colleges to update their career and technical education programs, and helps build a 21<sup>st</sup> century economy.
- Mentioned that the recently created Education

Commission that is evaluating the future direction of the education pipeline, and will make recommendations later this year.

### Minnesota

Gov. Mark Dayton (D)

State of the State Address | January 23, 2017

- Called for an investment in education and workforce training to address a shortage of highly skilled job seekers.
- Underlined the necessity of restoring state funding for public colleges, universities, technical schools and student aid programs.
- Proposed the Bonding Bill to increase funding for capital investments so that public colleges and universities can repair existing structures and build new world-class facilities in order to recruit the highest caliber students and faculty to contribute to innovation in the state.

### Mississippi

Gov. Phil Bryant (R)

State of the State Address | January 17, 2017

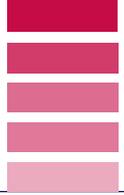
- Gov. Phil Bryant did not mention higher education in his remarks.

### Missouri

Gov. Eric Greitens (R)

State of the State Address | January 17, 2017

- Gov. Eric Greitens did not mention higher education in his remarks.



## Montana

Gov. Steve Bullock (D)

State of the State Address | January 24, 2017

- Highlighted the 2,500 high school students enrolled in dual credit courses at the Montana University System, saving families nearly \$5 million on tuition payments.
- Praised Montana's increased investment in higher education since 2009, a period when 46 states decreased their funding.
- Noted the growth in resident students employed in-state, up 6 percent to 80 percent from 2009.
- Proposed a \$292 million investment in infrastructure, which includes funding for the renovation of Romney Hall at Montana State University, a top priority for the University System.

## Nebraska

Gov. Pete Ricketts (R)

State of the State Address | January 12, 2017

- Gov. Pete Ricketts did not mention higher education in his remarks.

## Nevada

Gov. Brian Sandoval (R)

State of the State Address | January 17, 2017

- Noted the recent growth in the state's economy; however, an unprepared workforce has inhibited growth. Also noted that closing the college attainment gap, expanding dual enrollment, and investing in higher education are all necessary for a stronger economy in modern times.

- Committed to contributing \$20 million to the Millennium Scholarship programs—a scholarship for high school graduates who have met a set of requirements and plan to attend a postsecondary institution in Nevada.

- Highlighted a funding increase of \$115 million for institutions of higher education that offer academic programs that closely align with his economic development strategy and an additional \$21 million to enhance career and technical education programs at the state's four community colleges.

- Allocated \$58 million for University of Nevada-Reno and University of Nevada-Las Vegas to accommodate recent growth in enrollment.

- Applauded the approval for a new medical school at UNLV and plans to support the inaugural class through a budget allocation of \$53 million.

- Stressed a recently adopted attainment goal of 60 percent of residents between the ages of 25 and 34 with some form of postsecondary degree or credential by 2025.

- Created the Teach Nevada Scholarship for college students who agree to teach in Nevada upon graduation.

## New Hampshire

Gov. Chris Sununu (R)

Budget Address | February 9, 2017

- Mentioned shifting higher education funding from institutions to students and outcomes.
- Established the Governor's Scholarship program, allocating \$5 million to assist students in attending postsecondary education in New Hampshire at either a college or university or in

a workforce training program. The program is intended to help at least 1,000 students per year and will open up workforce pathways to help build New Hampshire's 21st century workforce.

- Proposed a \$10 million investment in infrastructure projects and a significant increase to the operating budget, both for the community college system.

### New Jersey

Gov. Chris Christie (R)

State of the State Address | January 10, 2017

- Gov. Chris Christie did not mention higher education in his remarks.

### New Mexico

Gov. Susana Martinez (R)

State of the State Address | January 17, 2017

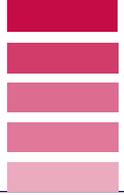
- Mentioned the recently announced Route to 66 initiative—an attainment goal to have 66 percent of working-age New Mexicans holding a postsecondary education credential by 2030.
- Highlighted increased institutional efficiency through degree mapping—the number of degree programs attainable within 120 credit hours—which has nearly doubled to 63 percent in one year, and incentivizing graduation in four years through tuition guarantees or tuition breaks.
- Urged the legislature to codify the transfer agreements between institutions, a system with common course numbering and meta-majors.
- Praised the 21.5 percent increase in degrees awarded since 2010, one year before her administration.

### New York

Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D)

State of the State Address | January 9, 2017

- Praised the administration's record investment in education, more than any other time in the state's history and more than any other state in the nation.
- Proposed tuition-free college at SUNY, CUNY and community colleges for students or families making up to \$125,000; this includes 80 percent of New York's residents and is intended to expand access to postsecondary education.
- Emphasized postsecondary education as a necessity in building the next generation of New York's workforce, and announced his intention to overhaul New York's employee training program that incentivizes employers to train incumbent workers in exchange for Excelsior Tax Credits.
- Established the New York Tech Workforce Task Force, a group of industry experts, academic leaders, and government officials who will evaluate the state's workforce development programs and monitor their alignment with workforce demands.
- Announced a continued investment in Early College High Schools, which provide high-performing at-risk students the opportunity to earn an associate's degree while receiving job training.
- Highlighted the creation of the New York Tech Workforce Training Fund—a \$5 million fund to support innovative training and education for New Yorkers looking to start careers in tech.
- Pressed for the passage of the DREAM Act, an effort to give undocumented students access to state financial aid and scholarships.



- Unveiled the Graduate to Homeownership program, which provides recent college graduates with assistance in buying a home in one of the communities in the Upstate region, including Rochester and Buffalo in New York.

## North Carolina

Gov. Roy Cooper (D)

[Inaugural Address](#) | January 7, 2017

- Praised North Carolina for being the first state “open its doors to publicly supported higher education.”
- Called for a renewed commitment to investing in higher education.

## North Dakota

Gov. Doug Burgum (R)

[State of the State Address](#) | January 3, 2017

- Stressed bringing education from a 19<sup>th</sup> century model of teaching to a 21<sup>st</sup> century model by emphasizing problem-solving and effective communication.

## Ohio

Gov. John Kasich (R)

[State of the State Address](#) | April 4, 2017

- This address has not yet occurred. Once given, this document will be updated with additional information, including a link to the speech text.

## Oklahoma

Gov. Mary Fallin (R)

[State of the State Address](#) | February 6, 2017

- Stressed the importance of increasing the number of high-skilled workers to fill critical open jobs by providing \$20 million for higher education programs.

## Oregon

Gov. Kate Brown (D)

[Inaugural Address](#) | January 9, 2017

- Prioritized the opportunity for a good job and a good education in her budget for the upcoming fiscal year.
- Praised the Oregon Promise for making higher education more accessible and affordable for Oregon students.

## Pennsylvania

Gov. Tom Wolf (D)

[State of the State Address](#) | February 7, 2017

- Praised his administration’s prioritizing of education, making the largest investment in education in the history of the Commonwealth, and urged legislators to pass a budget that protects the state’s investments in education.
- Highlighted a budget request for \$8.9 million in additional funding for the state system of higher education.
- Noted the increase in career and technical education programs available at the high school level without local tax hikes due to elevated state funding.

## Rhode Island

Gov. Gina Raimondo (D)

[State of the State Address](#) | January 17, 2017

- Vowed to protect and expand training programs that are allowing Rhode Islanders to learn the skills needed to compete in their changing economy.
- Called for investment in manufacturing initiatives for high school students.
- Discussed initiatives to make college more accessible and affordable while moving the state closer to its attainment goal. The attainment goal set last September is to ensure that 70 percent of adults have a postsecondary credential by 2025. Also discussed: the present availability of free in-state PSAT and SATs in every public school, and student debt relief for recent graduates who work in Rhode Island.
- Praised the participation in dual enrollment programs, with as many as 4,000 students earning college credits for free in the previous year.
- Proposed an expansion of Rhode Island Promise to guarantee two free years of college at Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI), University of Rhode Island (URI) or Rhode Island College (RIC).

### South Carolina

Former Gov. Nikki Haley (R)

State of the State Address | January 11, 2017

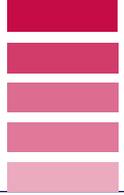
- Emphasized the state's need to better prepare students for emerging jobs to ensure companies can find the talent they need without having to look out of state.

### South Dakota

Gov. Dennis Daugaard (R)

State of the State Address | January 10, 2017

- Emphasized the benefits of the dual credit program, which in its third year had 2,139 high school students take at least one course from a university and another 899 from a technical institute. The students and their families saved \$4.4 million in tuition.
- Reported that 30 percent of first year college students needed at least one remedial course in math or English.
- Noted his frustration with the slow adoption of Accuplacer assessments, a service that identifies where a student needs remediation and targets instruction while still in high school, and hoped more schools would adopt in this year.
- Awarded the first workforce education grants to transform career and technical education programs in high school.
- Mentioned the passage and his own support of Amendment R, which gives the legislature authority to provide oversight for the technical institutes.
- Praised the Build Dakota Scholarship launched last year that provides 300 students with full scholarships to attend a technical institute in a high-need program with the stipulation that the student must work in South Dakota in that field after graduation. In Build Dakota programs, enrollment is up nearly 10 percent.
- Applauded the South Dakota Regents for their adoption of a state attainment goal: to have 65% of high school graduates go on to graduate from



either a university or technical school.

- Called for increased attention to solving the shortage of healthcare workers by offering training programs in rural communities and assisting communities with recruitment.

## Tennessee

Gov. Bill Haslam (R)

[State of the State Address](#) | January 30, 2017

- Praised Tennessee's stature as a leader in higher education; having the lowest growth in tuition and fees since the 1970s over the last two years and the first Tennessee Promise students will be awarded associate's degrees in four months.
- Celebrated an increased investment of \$42 million dollars in need-based financial aid since fiscal year 2012 and 17 percent decrease in the number of students taking out student loans.
- Introduced Tennessee Reconnect, an initiative that builds on the Tennessee Promise, and will offer all adults access to community college free of tuition and fees. The program will also help the state move closer to its attainment goal of 55 percent of adults having an associate's degree or higher by 2025. Tennessee is the first state to offer all residents access to a degree or certificate free of tuition and fees through Tennessee Promise and Tennessee Reconnect Act.
- Highlighted the Tennessee STRONG Act, which will provide tuition free attendance at public universities and colleges for members of the state's National Guard.

## Texas

Gov. Greg Abbott (R)

[State of the State Address](#) | January 30, 2017

- Praised the legislature's advancement of Texas universities in the last legislative session.
- Encouraged full funding of the Governor's University Research Initiative that funds institutions to recruit renowned researchers to Texas.

## Utah

Gov. Gary Herbert (R)

[State of the State Address](#) | January 12, 2017

- Announced a forthcoming 10-year plan for kindergarten through postsecondary to advance Utah's education system.
- Discussed the growing aerospace industry and the success of Utah Aerospace Pathways, a program that provides high school students with training and internships with leading companies.
- Unveiled Talent Ready Utah, a program that will use a similar model to Aerospace Pathways and expand to other industries, ultimately helping to fill 40,000 high-skill jobs over the next four years.

## Vermont

Gov. Phil Scott (R)

[State of the State Address](#) | January 5, 2017

- Mentioned the aging workforce leading to a shrinking workforce and the state's need for increased attention on economic development through workforce training.

- Criticized the high levels of spending on the K-12 system, when so little is being spent on early and higher education.

### Virginia

Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D)

State of the State Address | January 11, 2017

- Applauded last year's investment of more than \$1 billion in public education, the highest level of investment in the state's history.
- Discussed the transformation of Virginia's workforce development system to incentivize students to complete degrees in high-demand industries and modernizing the state's workforce to fill jobs.
- Proposed a Borrowers' Bill of Rights to outline basic consumer protections as well as additional information on repayment to student loan borrowers.
- Announced legislation that would authorize institutions of higher education to incentivize degree completion within four years using financial aid.

### Washington

Gov. Jay Inslee (D)

State of the State Address | January 11, 2017

- Called for maintaining the lower tuition rates, previously passed by the legislature, and expanding financial aid options for students with the most need.
- Committed to continued support of career-connected opportunities for students throughout

the education pipeline.

### West Virginia

Gov. Jim Justice (D)

State of the State Address | February 8, 2017

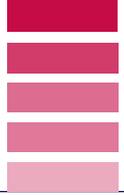
- Gov. Jim Justice did not mention higher education in his remarks.

### Wisconsin

Gov. Scott Walker (R)

State of the State Address | January 10, 2017

- Named "workforce, workforce, workforce" and focusing on training people to fill open jobs as his top priority for 2017. Mentioned the administration's previous investments in workforce development, including in Wisconsin Fast Forward program, a grant program supporting employer-led workforce training programs.
- Praised the increased enrollment in youth apprenticeship programs, a statewide school-to-work initiative designed to give high school students hands on learning opportunity at a worksite, along with classroom instruction.
- Noted investments into college- and career-readiness initiatives, such as dual enrollment, FAB labs and youth apprenticeships.
- Applauded the last four years of frozen undergraduate tuition at the UW system that saved the typical student more than \$6,300 over the course of their degree and the greatest



amount of need-based financial aid in Wisconsin history.

- Discussed the continued investment in the Wisconsin Technical College System and the Blueprint for Prosperity plan, which opened 5,000 more slots for students in high-demand areas.
- Promoted student loan refinancing through Wisconsin-specific routes, such as credit unions and banks.
- Called for five percent tuition cuts throughout the University of Wisconsin system in the upcoming biennium budget.
- Committed to bring funding back to the Veteran's Tuition Waiver Program, which provides tuition assistance to veterans and suffered from previous budget cuts.
- Stressed the upcoming budget shortfall that may have implications for higher education.

## Wyoming

Gov. Matt Mead (R)

State of the State Address | January 11, 2017

- Thanked University of Wyoming President Laurie Nichols for her leadership through the difficult budget landscape.
- Applauded the groundbreaking of several construction projects at the University of Wyoming.
- Requested \$500,000 in funding for the University of Wyoming Science Initiative to improve outdated science laboratories and upgrade the quality of instruction and research in the sciences.

### Contributing:

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