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Annual Conference & Exposition



# Higher Education Legislative Updates

**Travis T. York, Ph.D.** ([tyork@aplu.org](mailto:tyork@aplu.org))

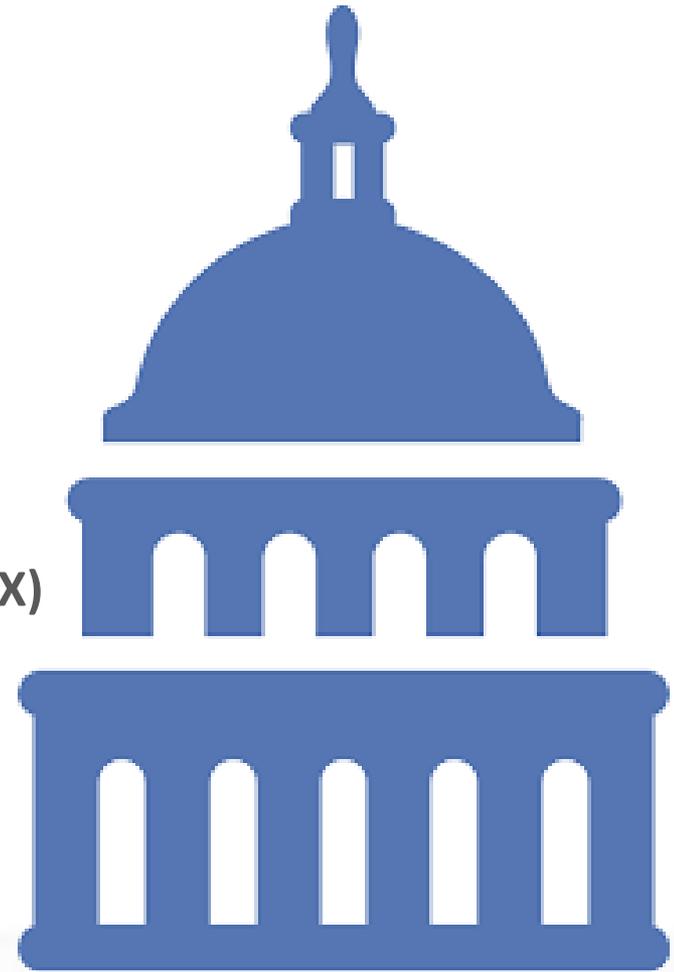
*Director of Student Success, Research, & Policy,  
Association of Public & Land-grant Universities (APLU)*

**Thomas Harnisch, Ed.D.** ([harnischt@aascu.org](mailto:harnischt@aascu.org))

*Director of State Relations & Policy Analysis,  
American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU)*

# Agenda

- **Intro's & Political landscape (5 min.)**
- **Top Higher Ed Issues (40 min.)**
  - Budget & Appropriations
  - Financial Aid & College Access
  - Free Speech & Safe and Inclusive Campuses
  - Campus Sexual Assault & Prevention (Title IX)
  - Guns on Campus
  - Immigration & Undocumented Students
  - Economic & Workforce Development
- **Questions & Answers (40 min.)**
- **Small Group Activity (25 min.)**



# About APLU

*APLU is a research, policy, and advocacy organization dedicated to strengthening and advancing the work of public universities in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. With a membership of 237 public research universities, land-grant institutions, state university systems, and affiliated organizations, APLU's agenda is built on the three pillars of increasing degree completion and academic success, advancing scientific research, and expanding engagement. Annually, member campuses enroll 4.8 million undergraduates and 1.3 million graduate students, award 1.2 million degrees, employ 1.2 million faculty and staff, and conduct \$43.5 billion in university-based research.*

ASSOCIATION OF  
PUBLIC AND  
LAND-GRANT  
UNIVERSITIES



ENROLL



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AWARD



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EMPLOY

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AND CONDUCT



**\$43.1 billion**  
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# About AASCU



- Represent over 400 public college and university presidents
- Our sector: regional public universities, or “SCUs”
- Emphasis: Undergraduate education, affordable access, student success, and diversity
- State and federal government relations
- Leadership/professional development for presidents, provosts, government relations, communications



# Federal & State Political Landscape



- **Public Higher Ed operates in a political ecosystem. It is constitutionally a state function.**
- **Republican power in states near 100-year highs. Full control of Washington**
- **The 2018 elections will be very, very important**
- **Federal**
  - **House 241-194 GOP Majority**
  - **Senate 52-46-2 GOP Majority**
  - **2018 Senate Races (23 Dem, 9 GOP, 2 Ind)**
  - **Status of White House and Agencies**
- **State—Conservative Power at a Peak**
  - **25 states w/total GOP control vs 6 for Dems**
  - **2018 elections are pivotal for redistricting**
  - **36 governors up in 2018**



## Budget & Appropriations

- **Federal**

- Recent Omnibus funding goes through September.
- Deal on defense and nondefense sequestration relief may be over.
- FY18 Trump “skinny budget” is indeed skinny on higher education community’s priorities.
- Student aid in F17 and FY18. Several challenges to come.

- **State**

- Many state budgets=lagging revenue numbers
- State-specific issues, but oil/gas revenues are down
- Little political support for enhancing revenue=budget cuts
- Public higher education expecting sizable cuts in many states

# Top Policy Issues

## Financial Aid & College Access

- **Federal**

- **Year-Round Pell Guidance for 2017-18 award year (just released).**
- **Status of HEA reauthorization (likely to see it next year).**
- **There continues to be increased scrutiny around the financial aid's role in affordability.**
- **Several financial aid issues to keep watch on as the budget process continues (student loans, repayment, taxes, etc.).**

- **State**

- **Press by governors & legislators to hold down tuition increases. Debt concerns. But what now w/ budget cuts?**
- **Tuition increases in recent years=mild**
- **Free college movement. Big legislation in NY.**
- **Quality?**

# Top Policy Issues

## Free Speech & Safe and Inclusive Campuses

- **Federal**
  - Several upcoming congressional hearings on the topic of Free Speech on Campus (first one occurred today).
  - Constant balancing act for institutions and specifically for Public Colleges and Universities.
- **State**
  - Lots of discussions today re: free speech (Milo, Coulter, etc.)
  - State bills to eliminate “free speech zones”
  - Codify academic freedom
  - Civil Rights: “Bathroom bills” in 16 states, 6 states that would override local anti-discriminatory measures, 14 states would limit transgender rights (h/t NCSL)

# Top Policy Issues

## Campus Sexual Assault & Prevention (Title IX)

- Federal

- Campus sexual assault & prevention must remain of chief importance for the safety of our campuses. Significant research on the benefits of prevention (PIRC).
- Signals of a changing culture at OCR.
  - Instructions to field offices to remove backlog of cases.
  - Indications of increased collaboration and assistance.
  - Potential adherence to rule-making procedures for the Dept.

- State

- Movement to crack down on campus sexual assault at the state level
- Solutions=affirmative consent standards, transcript notation, confidential advisors.
- Pushback=Due Process legislation

## Guns on Campus

- **State**
  - **Around 14 states considering guns on campus bills (h/t NASPA). AR and GA approved bills this year. MD gun control.**
  - **17 states ban outright, 23 punt to campuses, 9 allow guns. TN allows guns for faculty/staff. (h/t NCSL)**

# Top Policy Issues

## Immigration & Undocumented Students

- **Federal**
  - **DACA & DREAMERS to stay for now...**
  - **Travel Ban, Extreme Vetting, and H-1B Premium Processing suspension limit the ability for institutions of higher education to attract and obtain the world's most talented students & faculty for research and study.**
- **State**
  - **Crackdown on the “sanctuary campuses” proposals**
  - **In-state tuition and access to financial aid for undocumented students remains an issue**

# Top Policy Issues

## Economic & Workforce Development

- **Federal**
  - Responsiveness to careers and the workforce continue to be essential.
  - False dichotomy between jobs & holistic development in higher education.
- **State**
  - New, stark divide in post-Recession economy
  - Governors and legislators seeking to link available jobs to education/training in the state
  - Higher education is mostly discussed in economic terms

# Conclusions

- **Conservative power is at a peak, but as with any new administration there are always opportunities for advancement.**
- **The nation and some states are in for challenging budget cycles.**
- **Affordability and outcomes will continue to be important issues.**
- **Campus sexual assault, free speech, & guns on campus will be flashpoints.**

**Your voice matters!**

# Questions?

**Thomas Harnisch, Ed.D.**

Director of State Relations and Policy Analysis

American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU)

@aascupolicy

**Travis T. York, Ph.D.**

Director of Student Success, Research & Policy,

Association of Public & Land-grant Universities (APLU)

@travisyork

# Small Group Activity

# Additional Resources

- Year Round Pell Guidance: <https://ifap.ed.gov/dpccletters/GEN1706.html>
- Examples of How Public Universities are Responding to New Immigration Executive Order: You can view APLU's current collection of responses at: [www.aplu.org/ImmigrationResponse](http://www.aplu.org/ImmigrationResponse)
- The proposed [BRIDGE Act](#) would codify for three years the policies of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Rutgers University President Barchi has widely shared an [online letter](#) which you, your colleagues, and/or your students could take part in.
- Follow APLU ([@APLU\\_GovAffairs](#)) and AASCU ([@ascupolicy](#)) on Twitter for regular policy updates!