



## **2013 Gubernatorial State of the State Speeches and Higher Education**

Updated: March 7, 2013

Speeches given: 50

Speeches that have mentioned gubernatorial priorities involving one or more aspect of higher education: 48

Compiled by [Thomas L. Harnisch](#), Assistant Director of State Relations and Policy Analysis and [Emily A. Parker](#), Senior Research Associate

### **Alabama**

Gov. Robert Bentley (R)

[State of the State Address](#) February 5, 2013

- Launched a College and Career Ready Task Force last month to bring business and education together with the goal of creating a skilled workforce
- Stated that business, industry and agricultural sectors will advise the state concerning their workforce needs and educators will be able to tailor their courses accordingly

### **Alaska**

Gov. Sean Parnell (R)

[State of the State Address](#) January 16, 2013

- Highlighted the Alaska Performance Scholarship, which has been awarded to 4,600 high school students who have agreed to take rigorous coursework
- Called on lawmakers to fully fund the Alaska Performance Scholarship

## **Arizona**

Gov. Jan Brewer (R)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 14, 2013

- Mentioned that Arizona has to compete to attract and retain the most talented students and faculty to its state universities

## **Arkansas**

Gov. Mike Beebe (D)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 15, 2013

- Stated that his budget proposal will address the state's goal of equity across higher education institutions in a small, modest way

## **California**

Gov. Jerry Brown (D)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 24, 2013

- Lauded the approval of Proposition 30, a state ballot measure that increased state funding for education
- Stated that cost pressures in higher education are relentless and students cannot get into needed courses
- Noted that completing college in four years is the exception and student transfers from one segment of higher education to another remains difficult
- Conveyed that he does not want tuition prices to increase and hopes to prevent making students the default financiers of their college education

## **Colorado**

Gov. John Hickenlooper (D)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 10, 2013

- Highlighted that the state will adopt a need-based financial aid allocation process that incentivizes college retention and completion
- Mentioned higher education as one contributor to state economic development
- Called for finding a fair and equitable way for undocumented student to pursue higher education

## **Connecticut**

Gov. Dannel Malloy (D)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 9, 2013

- Higher education was not mentioned in the address

## **Delaware**

Gov. Jack Markell (D)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 17, 2013

- Discussed Start Up Delaware, a public-private partnership that will serve as a hub of entrepreneurial activity and which will build relationships between institutions of higher education and the private sector
- Called on the state to work with universities to strengthen standards for those entering the teaching profession
- Stated his goal of having every high school graduate ready for a career or college

## **District of Columbia**

Mayor Vincent C. Gray (D)

[\*State of the District Address\*](#) February 5, 2013

- Outlined a plan aided by city universities to bolster tech startups by providing local entrepreneurs with office space, training opportunities and offices
- Stated that the city's universities will be partners in creating the largest technology center on the East Coast and becoming the most business-friendly jurisdiction in the nation

## **Florida**

Gov. Rick Scott (R)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) March 5, 2013

- Said that his budget increases operating funds for Florida state colleges by more than \$70 million and increases funding for the state's universities by \$390 million
- Stated that much of the increase will be tied to performance measures to ensure that schools adequately prepare students for entry into the workforce
- Praised the head of the University of Florida for coming up with performance metrics
- Lauded the chancellor of the Florida state colleges for enlisting all 23 state colleges in the \$10,000 degree challenge and helping students earn degrees in high-demand fields

## **Georgia**

Gov. Nathan Deal (R)

[State of the State Address](#) January 17, 2013

- Praised the leaders of the University System of Georgia and the Technical College System of Georgia for evaluating and refocusing programs of study to those with a record of employability
- Outlined a plan to align the Technical College HOPE Grant to programs leading to jobs and filling job shortages and suggested using additional funds within the Technical College HOPE Grants to ensure that 90 percent of tuition costs are covered for training in high-need occupations.
- Lauded the HOPE Scholarship for keeping the best and brightest students in the state
- Stated that his budget proposal increases HOPE Scholarship funding by 3 percent in FY 2014 to nearly \$600 million.
- Thanked the Higher Education Funding Commission for starting the transition from enrollment to outcomes-based funding

## **Hawaii**

Gov. Neil Abercrombie (D)

[State of State Address](#) January 23, 2013

- Mentioned research commercialization that has been conducted through a partnership between the University of Hawaii and the Queens Medical Center
- Gave credit to a public-private partnership between the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawaii and the state's agriculture industry
- Stated that Hawaii will be joining the national effort to boost college- and career-readiness
- Discussed the Veterans to Farmers program, a joint partnerships between the government and higher education that combines classroom and on-farm experience to teach students how to grow produce in greenhouses
- Described a state program in which UH-Hilo will provide prison inmates within two- to four-years from finishing their sentences with tools to effectively re-enter society

## **Idaho**

Gov. Butch Otter (R)

[\*State of State Address\*](#) January 7, 2013

- Outlined a budget plan that includes more seats in a medical program designed to serve Idaho
- Lauded the Idaho Global Entrepreneurial Mission, a program created last year which leverages the talent of the state's research universities to commercialize innovative technologies
- Highlighted the role of higher education in economic development and public-private partnerships, with numerous examples of institutions of higher education working with private industry
- Discussed the technical/vocational programs at the College of Western Idaho
- Acknowledged a \$5 million grant to the University of Idaho and Northwest Nazarene University to establish a technology learning and innovation center for teachers

## **Illinois**

Gov. Pat Quinn (D)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) February 6, 2013

- Noted a partnership between the University of Illinois and the National Center for Supercomputing Applications to create an advanced manufacturing hub where companies will have access to some of the world's most sophisticated tools and software
- Described expansion projects at the state's public colleges and universities
- Discussed the Illinois Dream Commission, which will start awarding scholarships to high school students from immigrant families

## **Indiana**

Gov. Mike Pence (R)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 22, 2013

- Stated that his state budget creates a partnership between Indiana's life science industry and universities
- Expressed his belief that schools must produce graduates who are college- and career-ready
- Stated that every student should be encouraged to attend college and that college must be affordable
- Proposed a plan to boost funding to state colleges and universities and tie funding and financial aid to on-time completion

## **Iowa**

Gov. Terry Branstad (R)

[Condition of the State Address](#) January 15, 2013

- Said that the state cannot continue to be complacent when 36 percent of the 2012 high school class that attended community colleges had to enroll in a remedial course
- Put forth a tuition reimbursement plan for students who agree to teach in Iowa schools for five years.
- Proposed that students should be able to earn a college- or career-ready seal in addition to their high school diploma
- Said that students will have the option, at the state's expense, to take a college-entrance or workforce readiness test.
- Praised the work of University Northern Iowa president Ben Allen and Lt. Governor Reynolds for contributing to the Governor's STEM Initiative
- Noted that the state needs to do more to retain physicians
- Called for stronger clinical experiences to better prepare teachers

## **Kansas**

Gov. Sam Brownback (R)

[State of the State Address](#) January 15, 2013

- Stated that his budget plan will keep higher education funding flat and includes money for a new crime lab and training facility at Washburn University
- Outlined a state plan to educate 50 more physicians each year at a new medical facility at the University of Kansas

## **Kentucky**

Gov. Steve Beshear (D)

[State of the State Address](#) February 6, 2013

- Mentioned that the state received an "A" from *Education Week* for connecting its K-12 system with early learning, higher education and the world of work
- Described the consequences of the recession for higher education, including funding cuts leading to annual tuition increases of 4 percent at community and technical colleges and nearly 7 percent at the state's largest four-year universities, as well as reduced financial aid to needy students
- Noted that the state has cut higher education by \$166 million since 2008, leading to higher tuition, increased class sizes, fewer academic programs, course offerings, delayed repairs, more reliance on part-time teachers and layoffs.
- Lamented that the state took \$24 million from a state financial aid program to balance the budget
- Urged lawmakers to pass a bond measure for the state's public colleges and universities that will not use any state general revenue funds

## **Louisiana**

Gov. Bobby Jindal (R)

*State of the State Address* April 8, 2013

## **Maine**

Gov. Paul LePage (R)

*State of the State Address* February 6, 2013

- Described a new state program to strengthen vocational education
- Stated that too many high school graduates are unprepared for higher education, including 50 percent of incoming community college students require remediation

## **Maryland**

Gov. Martin O'Malley (D)

*State of the State Address* January 30, 2013

- Lauded the state's efforts to temper college costs over the past several years
- Outlined a state budget plan that holds down college costs and invests in community colleges
- Highlighted state efforts to commercialize research that leads to job creation.
- Noted a program at Prince George's Community College where students can simultaneously work toward a high school diploma and two-year degree; a program that he hopes to replicate statewide
- Stated that college completion is a key priority and Maryland is not producing enough graduates in the STEM fields
- Described college completion efforts, include course redesign, competency-based courses, reworking financial aid to encourage full-time course loads and providing students with more online course options

## **Massachusetts**

Gov. Deval Patrick (D)

*State of the State Address* January 16, 2013

- Praised the state's community college reforms
- Called for raising investment in public colleges and universities, as well as the MASSGrants scholarship program

## **Michigan**

Gov. Rick Snyder (R)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 16, 2013

- Stated that only 17 percent of the state's students are college ready and over 60 percent have to take a remedial course when they enroll in community colleges
- Discussed an economic development summit that will focus on building talent, including engineering graduates from universities and those in the skilled trades

## **Minnesota**

Gov. Mark Dayton (D)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) February 6, 2013

- Described the state's pattern of higher education disinvestment: the state reduced funding in 2011 by 12 percent, the state spends \$569 million less on higher education than it did 16 years ago and real state spending for all of postsecondary education has been not higher in real dollars since FY1980-81
- Outlined a budget plan that would add \$240 million to support higher education funding, still \$100 million short of restoring cuts from FY10-11
- Mentioned that in a comparison of funding higher education based on per \$1000 of personal income, Minnesota ranks 32<sup>nd</sup> and state disinvestment has led to higher tuition rates

## **Mississippi**

Gov. Phil Bryant (R)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 22, 2013

- Noted that Mississippi's higher education system spent \$35 million on remediation and only 11 percent of the state's students met all of the ACT's benchmarks for college readiness
- Discussed the expansion of the University of Mississippi's medical center and the impact of more physicians on the state's economy
- Called for raising college entrance standards for teacher preparation programs
- Asked the legislature to fund 200 scholarships for students who have a 28 on the ACT and 3.5 GPA and who commit to teaching in Mississippi's public schools

## **Missouri**

Gov. Jay Nixon (D)

[\*State of State Address\*](#) January 28, 2013

- Outlined a state budget blueprint that increases higher education funding by \$34 million, the Access and Bright Flight Scholarships by \$75 million and provides more funding for the A+ Scholarships, which covers tuition and fees at community colleges
- Noted that the state will expand A+ scholarship to every school in the state
- Stated that the education is the state's best economic development tool
- Challenged the state to come up with a performance-based funding model and will tie the \$34 million funding increase to performance
- Stated that 750,000 people in Missouri have not finished their college degrees
- Unveiled Western Governors University-Missouri, which will help students earn college degrees through online, competency-based education
- Called for investment in university research facilities, such as those in the STEM fields

## **Montana**

Gov. Steve Bullock (D)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 30, 2013

- Called for passing the J.O.B.S. Bill, which will upgrade K-12 and higher education facilities and help put people to work
- Set an attainment goal of having at least 60 percent of Montana adults hold post-secondary or professional certificates in a decade
- Indicated that his budget includes a plan to offer more college courses to high school students, a universal enrollment system, a tuition freeze, and expanded outreach to returning veterans

## **Nebraska**

Gov. Dave Heineman (R)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 15, 2013

- Said that state two- and four-year higher education leaders are ready to freeze tuition if the governor's budget plan is adopted

## **Nevada**

Gov. Brian Sandoval (R)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 16, 2013

- Said that Nevada needs to focus on college readiness and will pursue college readiness through a program to put specialists in schools to work with at-risk students
- Stated that the Nevada System of Higher Education will be an important player in the state's economic development efforts
- Lauded the work of the state's community colleges
- Highlighted that UNLV will be established as a global intellectual hub for gaming and the state budget will support and extend the Kenny Guinn Scholarship
- Included a budget item to support the University Cooperative Extension Program in rural Nevada

## **New Hampshire**

Gov. Maggie Hassan (D)

[\*Inaugural Address\*](#) January 3, 2013

- Said that the state must engage all stakeholders to provide robust educational opportunities for students, including in the STEM fields.
- Backed a goal by the state's public colleges and universities to double the number of graduates in the STEM fields by 2025
- Stated that the state needs to build strategic partnerships between colleges and universities and inventors and entrepreneurs.
- Noted that New Hampshire has the fourth-highest in-state tuition rate and that too many students pursue a college education somewhere else.
- Said that cutting state funding in half two years ago was short-sighted and outlined a plan to increase funding in exchange for expanded student access and a tuition freeze
- Stated that the state's community college system must be cutting-edge and innovative

## **New Jersey**

Gov. Chris Christie (R)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 8, 2013

- Applauded the restructuring plan which will make Rutgers a top 25 university in research dollars and the newest member of the Big Ten and commended the voter-approved \$1.3 billion higher education capital construction measure.
- Lauded a higher education task force led by former Gov. Tom Kean to make New Jersey's institutions more competitive
- Said that the state needs to turn to its universities from good to great in order to keep talented students in the state and strengthen the link between higher education and high-skilled jobs
- Highlighted the importance of the state's medical and health science institutions and how the mergers passed last year will enhance three established hubs of educational excellence in the state. The merger combined Rutgers and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in the north and Rowan University and UMDNJ's Stratford campus in the south.

## **New Mexico**

Gov. Susana Martinez (R)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 15, 2013

- Said that the state has an obligation to better prepare students for college
- Called for more teachers for Advanced Placement courses and fee waivers for low-income students, so that they can get a head start on college
- Described the Bridge program, a partnership between the local business community, their community college and state university, and their public schools that has led to the first early college high school in New Mexico

## **New York**

Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 9, 2013

- Stated that New York must re-imagine the role of its community colleges
- Called for performance-based funding to be implemented for the state's public colleges and universities
- Proposed improving the state's role in boosting university technology transfer.
- Set a goal of having the state become a "high-tech" incubator for start-up companies
- Introduced the Innovation New York Network; a collaboration between venture capitalists and higher education to foster commercialization
- Stated that NYSUNY 2020, a program offering state grants to institutions in exchange for detailed, long-term economic and academic plans that leverage private resources, is a success and should be applied to CUNY

## **North Carolina**

Gov. Pat McCrory (R)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) February 18, 2013

- Noted high remediation rates at the state's community colleges
- Stated that his administration is exploring strategic partnerships between the state's business and education communities
- Called for breaking down the silos between pre-K, K-12, community colleges and four-year colleges and universities
- Said that the state's universities need to come together to maximize research funding
- Lauded a bill that direct high schools and community colleges to share resources

## **North Dakota**

Gov. Jack Dalrymple (R)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 8, 2013

- Stated that strong state revenues provide an opportunity for investing in postsecondary education and to keep college affordable
- Recommended a new funding model developed by campus leaders based on course completions
- Highlighted growing concerns over student debt and encouraged lawmakers to increase funding for merit- and need-based scholarships.
- Called for \$150 million for capital construction projects

## **Ohio**

Gov. John Kasich (R)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) February 19, 2013

- Praised the efforts of college presidents on performance-based funding.
- Promoted the role of higher education in economic and workforce development
- Called for bringing in businesses into K-12 schools and higher education institutions to help with curriculum design and to provide students with insight into what it is like to work in different entities

## **Oklahoma**

Gov. Mary Fallin (R)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) February 4, 2013

- Promoted the importance of STEM education at all levels
- Stated the Oklahoma has taken steps to ensure college- and career- readiness
- Described the state as a national model for Complete College America
- Outlined the state's goal of increasing the number of college graduate and career tech certificates by 70 percent to keep pace with the job market

## **Oregon**

Gov. John Kitzhaber (D)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 13, 2013

- Noted that the average college graduate earns over 75 percent more than a person with a high school diploma.
- Stated that over 60 percent of jobs in the next decade will require at least a technical certificate or associates degree
- Called on lawmakers to reinvest in public higher education in order to meet the state's 40-40-20 degree attainment goal
- Called for a seamless state education system from pre-K to college

## **Pennsylvania**

Gov. Tom Corbett (R)

[\*Budget Address\*](#) February 5, 2013

- Praised college presidents for holding down costs
- Proposed level higher education funding
- Stated that his administration is committed to making the dream of higher education attainable

## **Rhode Island**

Gov. Lincoln Chafee (I)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 16, 2013

- Expressed his concern over student debt levels
- Called for a \$6 million funding increase to freeze tuition, with matching savings and efficiencies from institutions
- Proposed \$3 million in new funding for workforce development initiatives
- Praised the bond measure passed by voters that invests in higher education
- Allocated \$14 million in his state budget plan to invest in the state's vocational facilities

## **South Carolina**

Gov. Nikki Haley (R)

[State of the State Address](#) January 16, 2013

- Higher education was not mentioned in the address

## **South Dakota**

Gov. Dennis Daugaard (R)

[State of the State Address](#) January 28, 2013

- Described the state's new approach to remediation, which will use the ACT assessment to identify students while they are still in high school, and then offer them a shorter, targeted remedial program.
- Discussed the South Dakota Workforce Initiative, a package of 20 initiatives to develop a qualified workforce over the decade
- Highlighted state efforts to increase the number of welders and machinists
- Noted an online welding and machining program and expanded the welding program at a state prison
- Outlined a state effort to improve rural health care and place health care professionals in 35 state communities and place third-year medical students in rural communities
- Redirected Community Development Block Grant dollars to workforce training activities, a move that has provided eight grants totaling more than \$1 million to train over 300 workers

## Tennessee

Gov. Bill Haslam (R)

[State of the State Address](#) January 28, 2013

- Stated that for 30 years, growing Medicaid expenditures have squeezed out other priorities, including higher education and the state must address cost, access and quality in higher education
- Highlighted the state's Complete College program being featured in *Time Magazine*
- Stated that his budget fully funds the outcomes-based funding formula
- Said that the University of Tennessee and the Tennessee Board of Regents have pledged to limit tuition increases to no more than 6 percent at four-year institutions, and no more than 3 percent at two-year schools.
- Emphasized that only 32 percent of Tennesseans hold an associates or above, while the state's goal is to increase this to 55 percent by 2025
- Called upon the state to improve access and affordability, and in so doing will partner with Western Governors University to reach the 800,000 people in Tennessee who have earned some college credits but who have not obtained a degree
- Proposed establishing an endowment of \$35 million in order to provide \$2 million to support "last dollar" scholarship programs to fill gaps between students' financial aid and the real costs of college, including books, supplies, room and board.
- Mentioned that \$16.5 million in the budget has been proposed for equipment and technology related to workforce development programs at technology centers and community colleges
- Highlighted the national attention that the Degree Compass program at Austin Peay State University has received
- Outlined that the state is making strategic capital investments, with \$60 million toward maintenance of educational institutions and nearly \$250 million to fund key projects.

## Texas

Gov. Rick Perry (R)

[State of the State Address](#) January 29, 2013

- Highlighted that more students are taking college preparation tests, with significant increases in minority students
- Emphasized that Texas needs to make college accessible and affordable
- Praised the \$10,000 degree programs being implemented at 13 Texas public institutions
- Called for a performance-based funding plan that awards institutions for the number of graduates produced. A minimum of 10 percent of the state funding received will be based upon outcomes
- Announced an initiative last fall to bring industries and technical and community colleges together to create a statewide model that will enable students to swiftly earn their technical certifications at an affordable cost
- Called on lawmakers to give South Texas access to the Permanent University Fund

## **Utah**

Gov. Gary Herbert (R)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 30, 2013

- Noted the number of state students preparing for college through concurrent enrollment
- Praised state investment in higher education, including at applied technology centers
- Called for industry to work with higher education on energy-related issues.
- Highlighted the state's attainment goal and asked lawmakers to unite behind it: 66 percent of the state's adult population with a college degree or postsecondary certificate by 2020
- Called for investing \$20 million in STEM, with the state's institutions providing matching dollars

## **Vermont**

Gov. Peter Shumlin (D)

[\*Inaugural Address\*](#) January 10, 2013

- Stated that the state's education system is its greatest economic tool.
- Emphasized that all students must be college- and career-ready
- Proposed Vermont Strong Scholars Program, which will pay back the final year of tuition in full over the course of five years to any student that graduates in the STEM fields at a public post-secondary institution and chooses to work in the state thereafter
- Called for increasing the state's appropriation for Vermont State Colleges (VSC), Vermont Student Assistance Corporation and the University of Vermont (UVM) by 3 percent to be used for financial aid and scholarships
- Said that the state must identify savings to increase college affordability and mentioned a joint planning process between the University of Vermont and VSC
- Stated that the former UVM president is engaged in implementing 11 recommendations of a task force appointed last year to strengthen UVM and VSC
- Argued that the state must do more to utilize its 17 career and technical education centers to provide opportunities for students and adults who need to update their skills
- Called on business leaders to engage with the state's education system at all levels

## **Virginia**

Gov. Bob McDonnell (R)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 9, 2013

- Asked lawmakers to make college more affordable by increasing the TAG Grant from \$2,800 to \$3,100 and called for an additional \$31 million for the state's public colleges and universities in order to add more enrollment slots
- Highlighted the “Top Jobs for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” legislative initiative that has produced 3,800 new slots for undergraduate in-state students. The initiative also kept tuition increases to a minimal 4 percent increase last year.
- Stated that Top Jobs is supported by more than \$350 million over three years, with the end goal of producing 100,000 more college degrees, in 15 years, with a focus on STEM fields.
- Called on college presidents to increase operating efficiencies and keep 2013 tuition increases for in-state tuition to CPI
- Stressed that students need to graduate from high school college- and career-ready.
- Established a School and Campus Safety Task Force, charged with reviewing all security policies in effect in our schools and colleges and universities

## **Washington**

Gov. Jay Inslee (D)

[\*Inaugural Address\*](#) January 16, 2013

- Said the more emphasis on STEM fields is needed
- Called on the state to align K-12 and higher education
- Stressed the importance of research institutions for invention, economic growth and job creation and connecting the classroom, laboratory and marketplace

## **West Virginia**

Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin (D)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) February 13, 2013

- Emphasized that the state is working to make sure that every student is college- and career-ready
- Stated that vocational options should be available for students not planning on going to college

## **Wisconsin**

Gov. Scott Walker (R)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 15, 2013

- Discussed the state's partnership with the Wisconsin Covenant Foundation to provide grants to technical colleges and employers in various regions to improve workforce development
- Stated that his state budget proposal will align new resources with workplace needs
- Mentioned the new flexible degree program, UW FlexOption, designed to help adult learners earn degrees in targeted fields

## **Wyoming**

Gov. Matt Mead (R)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 9, 2013

- Praised the outgoing leader of the University of Wyoming
- Recommended a 6 percent budget reduction for the state's community colleges and the University of Wyoming
- Said that his budget plan includes \$8.5 million for salary increases and \$2.5 million for one-time merit-based bonuses for state employees, including UW and community college personnel
- Stated that the state needs to improve college readiness
- Appointed task force to define what a Tier-1 School of Engineering should look like