

The 2018 Gubernatorial State of the State Addresses and Higher Education

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

Alabama

Gov. Kay Ivey (R)

State of the State Address | January 9, 2018

- Mentioned her proposed budget includes an additional \$50 million for higher education.
- Explained the state's new initiative, Strong Start, Strong Finish, that will coordinate and improve the education pipeline.
- Proposed funding for the Jobs for Alabama's Graduates program.
- Requested funding for loan repayment programs for medical professionals who work in high-need areas of the state.
- Called for the creation of educational opportunities to better prepare students for the evolving needs of the workforce.

Alaska

Gov. Bill Walker (R)

State of the State Address | January 18, 2018

- Emphasized the importance of the education pipeline requiring strong colleges and universities.
- Praised the University of Alaska system's ability to persevere through drastic budget cuts to continue offering high-quality programs and producing well-prepared graduates.

Arizona

Gov. Doug Ducey (R)

State of the State Address | January 8, 2018

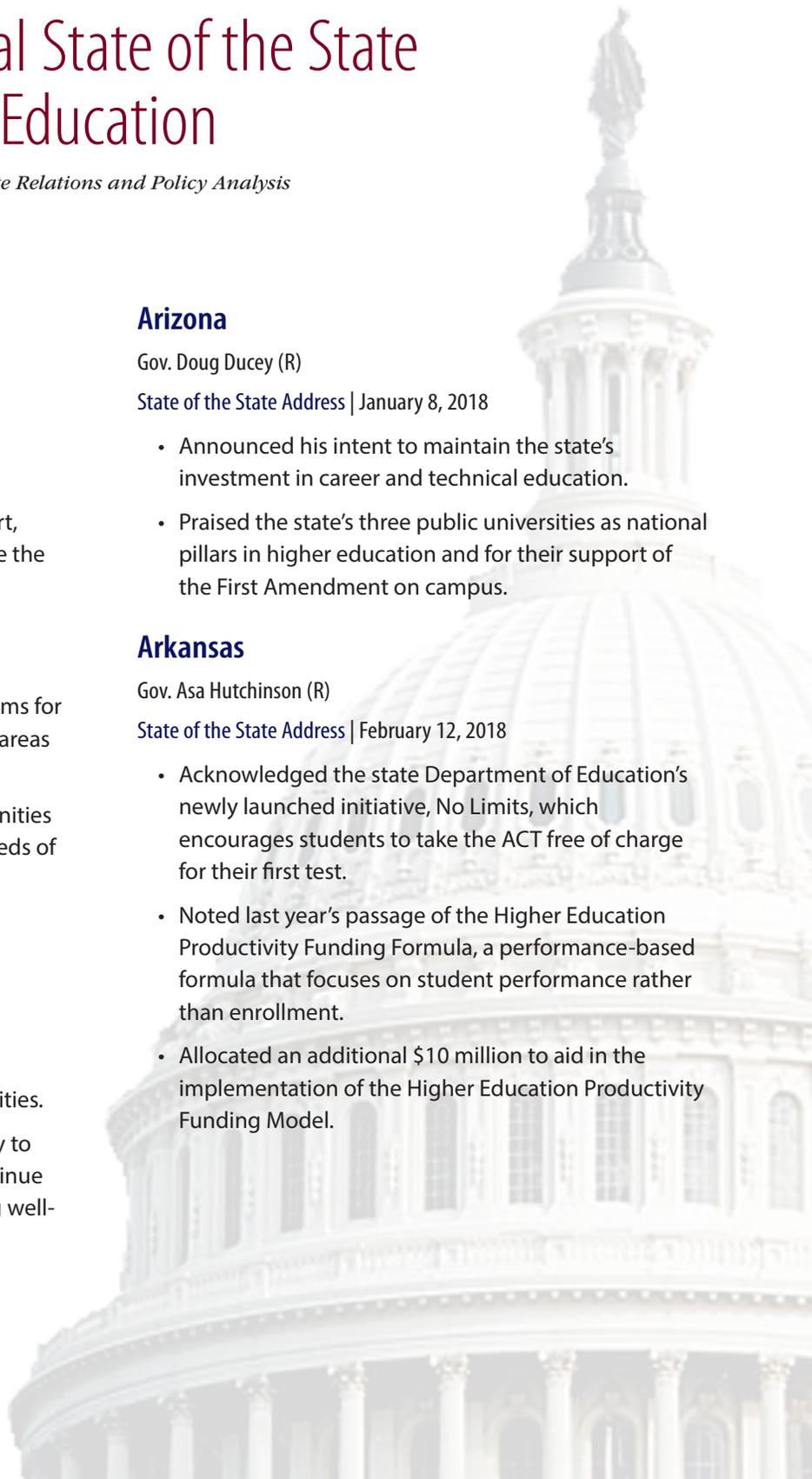
- Announced his intent to maintain the state's investment in career and technical education.
- Praised the state's three public universities as national pillars in higher education and for their support of the First Amendment on campus.

Arkansas

Gov. Asa Hutchinson (R)

State of the State Address | February 12, 2018

- Acknowledged the state Department of Education's newly launched initiative, No Limits, which encourages students to take the ACT free of charge for their first test.
- Noted last year's passage of the Higher Education Productivity Funding Formula, a performance-based formula that focuses on student performance rather than enrollment.
- Allocated an additional \$10 million to aid in the implementation of the Higher Education Productivity Funding Model.



California

Gov. Jerry Brown (D)

[State of the State Address](#) | January 25, 2018

- Recognized the state's dependency on institutions of higher learning for continued prosperity.
- Pointed out the state's increased annual support for higher education by \$5.8 billion since 2011.
- Proposed the creation of the California Online College, which would conveniently and affordably offer postsecondary degrees and certificates specifically targeted to the 2.5 million Californians between 25 and 34 who are in the workforce without postsecondary education.

Colorado

Gov. John Hickenlooper (D)

[State of the State Address](#) | January 11, 2018

- Called for transforming the education pipeline from a degree-based system to one that includes skill-based training.
- Mentioned the state's public-private partnership, Careerwise, that connects companies and talent to community colleges and training centers for apprenticeships and on-the-job training. Set a goal for Careerwise to have 20,000 students per year receive credit within the next decade.
- Noted the investment of more than \$250 million to support higher education over the last seven years, and that the state must continue to increase funds for higher education without further burdening students and their families with the cost of tuition, fees and books.

Connecticut

Gov. Dannel Malloy (D)

[State of the State Address](#) | February 7, 2018

- Praised the passage of the Connecticut DREAM Act, which ensures access to affordable higher education for students brought to the United States by their parents.

Delaware

Gov. John Carney (D)

[State of the State Address](#) | January 18, 2018

- Discussed recently solidified partnerships between the University of Delaware and the private sector. The partnerships have already led to the creation of new jobs and capital projects.
- Called for strengthening the state's pathway programs to build a highly skilled workforce and meet employer demands.
- Mentioned the state's investment in institutions of higher education, particularly Delaware Tech, as avenues for improving the state's workforce.
- Noted his intent to work with state lawmakers to create a student loan forgiveness program for educators, in hopes of boosting retention in the highest-need communities and highest-demand subject areas.

Florida

Gov. Rick Scott (R)

[State of the State Address](#) | January 9, 2018

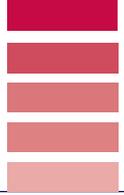
- Emphasized the need to invest in the state's education system to secure a prosperous future.
- Announced his support for a measure under consideration that would give free tuition to the families of fallen first responders, state law enforcement officers and military members who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Georgia

Gov. Nathan Deal (R)

[State of the State Address](#) | January 11, 2018

- Praised the increased education spending of \$3.6 billion throughout his administration.
- Noted the legacy of former Governor Zell Miller and his creation of the HOPE Scholarship and Grant programs.



- Recognized the state's Technical College System for adding certificate and degree programs, and created a new Deputy Commissioner position to develop and maintain a unified process within the system.
- Requested an additional \$1 million for an ongoing marketing campaign for the technical college system to target the 30 percent of Georgia's high school graduates who choose not to pursue higher education.
- Mentioned the creation of the HOPE Career Grant, which covers 100 percent of tuition for technical school students who enroll in a program for a high-demand field.

Hawaii

Gov. David Ige (D)

[State of the State Address](#) | January 22, 2018

- Praised expanded campuses and course offerings in the University of Hawaii System and the creation of the Hawai'i's Promise scholarship that defrays costs for students attending the state's community colleges.
- Applauded the state's early college programs that offer students the opportunity to save money while earning college credits.
- Emphasized the state's need to invest in STEM to prepare young people for available jobs.

Idaho

Gov. Butch Otter (R)

[State of the State Address](#) | January 8, 2018

- Requested \$5 million a year for college and career advising to ensure districts across the state can implement effective planning programs for students' futures.
- Congratulated the people of eastern Idaho for their transformation of Eastern Idaho Technical College to College of Eastern Idaho, which opened up access to higher education for the region.
- Thanked members of the Higher Education Task Force for their efforts in helping the state achieve its

attainment goal and making 12 recommendations on how to integrate, consolidate and make the system more student-focused.

- Asked for funding for the State Board of Education to hire an executive officer for higher education, who would oversee the impending changes to the system and coordinate the work of all higher education institutions.
- Sought support to implement a statewide degree audit and data analytics system to aid in institutions' understanding of their students.
- Proposed an additional \$5 million in funding for the Opportunity Scholarship program, \$5 million for Adult Completion Scholarships, and support for career and technical education programs.
- Applauded Idaho's first medical school that will open this fall, and requested funding for 11 new medical residencies.

Illinois

Gov. Bruce Rauner (R)

[State of the State Address](#) | January 31, 2018

- Gov. Bruce Rauner did not mention higher education in his remarks.

Indiana

Gov. Eric Holcomb (R)

[State of the State Address](#) | January 9, 2018

- Set goals to re-enroll 25,000 of the 700,000 residents who started college but have yet to finish, to establish a state work-based learning and apprenticeship office to increase the number of those opportunities from 12,500 to 25,000 by the end of 2019, and to have 1,000 inmates per year complete certificate programs by 2020.
- Committed to forming public-private partnerships to support lifelong learning for every student.
- Charged the Education to Career Pathways Cabinet with setting a framework to guide communities and to drive legislative action.

Iowa

Gov. Kim Reynolds (R)

[State of the State Address](#) | January 9, 2018

- Recounted the state's \$37 million investment in STEM public-private partnerships.
- Announced a new workforce readiness initiative, Future Ready Iowa, which is aimed at creating opportunities for residents of all ages, and called on the legislature to support the bill.
- Mentioned expanding public-private partnerships to increase education and training opportunities in hopes of achieving the state's attainment goal—for 70 percent of Iowa workers to have post-high school education by 2025.
- Included \$500,000 in her budget to expand work-based learning and an additional \$1 million to expand the state's apprenticeship program.
- Requested funding to create a new scholarship for students, of any age, pursuing up to a two-year degree in a high-demand field and to create a new grant program for those who started a four-year degree but have yet to finish.

Kansas

Gov. Jeff Colyer (R)

[State of the State Address](#) | February 8, 2018

- Called for significant investments in career and technical education programs for younger students to dual enroll and for older students to learn the skills needed for in-demand jobs.

Kentucky

Gov. Matt Bevin (R)

[State of the State Address](#) | January 16, 2018

- Called for investments in education and workforce development "like we never have before."
- Announced his plan to dedicate 100 percent of lottery revenue to education.

- Requested \$100 million in workforce bonds to continue to grow the state's workforce development programs.
- Mentioned using funds from the state's debt service to put towards the \$6 million of deferred maintenance on the state's higher education campuses.

Louisiana

Gov. John Bel Edwards (D)

[State of the State Address](#) | March 12, 2018

- Noted this year's stabilization of funding for higher education resulting in a boost in the number of applications to the state's universities, community and technical colleges.
- Voiced his support for legislation requiring hazing prevention education at the state's colleges and universities.

Maine

Gov. Paul LePage (R)

[State of the State Address](#) | February 13, 2018

- Proposed the Maine Student Loan Debt Relief Program to fund zero-interest student loans as an incentive to keep Maine residents in Maine as they pursue higher education, and requested a \$50 million bond fund the program.

Maryland

Gov. Larry Hogan (R)

[State of the State Address](#) | February 2, 2018

- Applauded the state for being home to America's most educated workforce.

Massachusetts

Gov. Charlie Baker (R)

[State of the State Address](#) | January 23, 2018

- Called for the expansion of three higher education initiatives: increase scholarship funding by more than \$7 million so that Pell-eligible students with



unmet financial need attending community colleges will have any remaining tuition and fees covered; expand early college programs; and expand the Commonwealth Commitment plan, which makes four-year degrees for less than \$30,000 possible.

- Noted new investments in vocational technical schools to upgrade equipment and expand programs.
- Highlighted public-private partnerships with colleges, businesses and the federal government, which have created thousands of jobs and infused billions of dollars into economic development projects.

Michigan

Gov. Rick Snyder (R)

[State of the State Address](#) | January 23, 2018

- Recognized First Lady Sue Snyder and a bipartisan group of legislators for their commitment to preventing campus sexual assault, and noted the state's \$1.6 million investment in grant funding to campuses to fund prevention efforts.
- Noted the growth in dual enrollment classes from 12 programs in 2011 to 136 in 2017, with the number of college classes completed in high school nearly tripling.
- Mentioned career and technical education as a top priority for the state and applauded last year's implementation of the Career Pathways Alliance, a public-private partnership that connects educational institutions to employers.
- Highlighted the state's investment of \$50 million in grants to community colleges for capital equipment.
- Announced the Marshall Plan for Talent, which will ensure better alignment between education and the workplace, as an additional pathway to higher education.
- Applauded the state's efforts in making vocational training available to prison inmates.

Minnesota

Gov. Mark Dayton (D)

[State of the State Address](#) | March 14, 2018

- Noted the substantial increases in support of the education pipeline during his administration, but that state funding for higher education has declined, and the funding must be restored to lessen the burden on students and their families.
- Urged the legislature's support for his inclusion of an additional \$10 million for the University of Minnesota system and an additional \$10 million for the Minnesota State system. This was in response to the University of Minnesota's announcement that with an additional \$10 million of state support, it would not need to raise tuition for the next academic year.
- Saluted the president of University of Minnesota and the chancellor of Minnesota State for their service to the state.
- Explained his Bonding Bill request, which will provide funding for capital improvements for the state's systems of higher education.

Mississippi

Gov. Phil Bryant (R)

[State of the State Address](#) | January 9, 2018

- Praised the state's community colleges as centers for workforce development, but called for more support to help the community colleges work to align their course offerings better with workforce needs.
- Applauded the state's investment in the Mississippi Works Fund, which supports workforce training.
- Asked the legislature to create the Mississippi Works Scholarship Fund to provide access and resources for students who qualify for targeted workforce training at community colleges.
- Recognized the newly built University of Mississippi Medical Center and its importance in training the medical professionals needed in the state.

Missouri

Gov. Eric Greitens (R)

State of the State Address | January 11, 2018

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

Montana

Gov. Steve Bullock (D)

No address in 2018.

Nebraska

Gov. Pete Ricketts (R)

State of the State Address | January 10, 2018

- Proposed an additional \$10 million over the next two years for workforce development.
- Mentioned his intention to make across-the-board reductions of 2 percent in this fiscal year and 4 percent in the next to cover the forecasted budget shortfalls, but highlighted his intention to still fund the state's priorities such as K-12 education.

Nevada

Gov. Brian Sandoval (R)

No address in 2018.

New Hampshire

Gov. Chris Sununu (R)

State of the State Address | February 15, 2018

- Announced the Governor's Cup, a collaborative partnership between the state's higher education systems and FIRST Robotics. The partnership will include an annual robotics competition. Students who participate are eligible for college credit and those on the winning team will receive a tuition-free semester at one of the state's public colleges and universities.
- Noted last year's proposal of the Governor's Scholarship Fund, a scholarship designed to help up to 1,000 students directly, rather than the institutions.

New Jersey

Gov. Phil Murphy (D)

State of the State Address | January 16, 2018

- Highlighted his intent to make four-year college more affordable, expand free access to community college and create new training programs.

New Mexico

Gov. Susana Martinez (R)

State of the State Address | January 16, 2018

- Recognized the state's teachers for their outstanding achievements, including decreasing the percentage of high school graduates needing remediation in college to 16 percent.

New York

Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D)

State of the State Address | January 3, 2018

- Called on lawmakers to expand the Excelsior Free College Program, in light of the federal government making college more expensive.
- Urged lawmakers to pass a state DREAM Act.
- Commended the state's past efforts in addressing sexual assault on college campuses.

North Carolina

Gov. Roy Cooper (D)

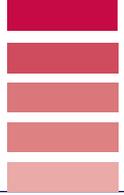
No address in 2018.

North Dakota

Gov. Doug Burgum (R)

State of the State Address | January 23, 2018

- Noted that 40 percent of the state's budget is allocated to education, with 20 percent to K-12 and 20 percent to higher education.
- Mentioned ongoing efforts to modernize the state's higher education governing structure to better support the education and workforce needs of the 21st century.



Ohio

Gov. John Kasich (R)

State of the State Address | March 6, 2018

- Gov. John Kasich did not mention higher education in his remarks.

Oklahoma

Gov. Mary Fallin (R)

State of the State Address | February 5, 2018

- Urged lawmakers to consider how college students and the next generation of Oklahomans are affected by their decisions on how to fund education.

Oregon

Gov. Kate Brown (D)

State of the State Address | February 5, 2018

- Outlined the top five occupations driving the state's economy, and called upon the education pipeline to better prepare high school graduates for jobs in those fields.
- Criticized the skills gap between Oregon's workers and the needs of the state's businesses. Proposed Future Ready Oregon, a program with the goal of closing the skills gap through hands-on learning connected to career pathways.
- Emphasized career and technical education as a post-high school pathway, and proposed \$300 million for hands-on learning in the upcoming biennium budget.
- Highlighted the public-private partnership between the Higher Education Coordinating Commission and Business Oregon to improve coordination between job training programs and high-growth industries.
- Introduced Next-Gen Apprenticeships, a training program focused on hands-on learning through apprenticeships in high-demand fields.

Pennsylvania

Gov. Tom Wolf (D)

State of the State Address | February 6, 2018

- Noted the nearly 33 percent increase in the number of career and technical education students earning industry-recognized certificates.
- Proposed a "significant" investment in career and technical education programs to continue growing a workforce that will attract new businesses to the Commonwealth, while also calling to consolidate workforce development efforts into one streamlined program, PA Smart.

Rhode Island

Gov. Gina Raimondo (D)

State of the State Address | January 16, 2018

- Commended the state for being the first state on the East Coast to make community college tuition free.
- Proposed expanding the state's job and technical training initiatives in high schools.
- Previewed an upcoming announcement of a public-private partnership to establish the Northern Rhode Island Higher Education Center, which will provide training and a pathway to employment for residents without a college degree.

South Carolina

Gov. Henry McMaster (R)

State of the State Address | January 24, 2018

- Stressed the importance of a productive educational pipeline to create the educated workforce needed for a thriving economy.
- Proposed an initiative, the South Carolina Workforce Partnership, connecting businesses with high schools and technical colleges to increase opportunities for students interested in skill trades, with an emphasis on rural areas of the state.
- Allocated additional funding for the Workforce Scholarships and Grants program, which gives students attending the state's technical colleges financial assistance.

South Dakota

Gov. Dennis Daugaard (R)

State of the State Address | January 9, 2018

- Mentioned his administration's new initiative, Career Launch, that expands the availability of work-based education experiences during high school, such as apprenticeships, internships and job shadowing. The program is intended to teach professional skills and highlight non-traditional career pathways.
- Stressed the importance of dual enrollment partnerships for growing the state's workforce in an affordable way. Last year alone, 2,224 high school students enrolled in dual enrollment courses and saved an estimated \$5.3 million, compared to the tuition rate they would otherwise pay.
- Urged the legislature to support his proposed update to the state dual credit statute to clarify how the state, institutions and students share in the cost of the program.

Tennessee

Gov. Bill Haslam (R)

State of the State Address | January 29, 2018

- Praised his administration's creation of Tennessee Promise and Tennessee Reconnect, two programs that have contributed to Tennessee's status as an innovator of public education, and that will contribute to the state potentially achieving its attainment goal—55 percent of Tennesseans having a certificate or degree by 2025—two years early.
- Noted the implementation of the Complete College Act that eventually grew to the SAILS program, which helps high school graduates who are unprepared for college-level coursework catch up.
- Mentioned the last three years of tuition increases have been the lowest in the last 40 years.
- Underlined that although access to higher education has increased, only one in four community college students complete college in six years, and about half of the students attending four-year institutions complete in the same time frame.

- Announced the Complete to Compete initiative, which will support students through additional resources to keep them on track to graduation.

Texas

Gov. Greg Abbott (R)

No address in 2018.

Utah

Gov. Gary Herbert (R)

State of the State Address | January 24, 2018

- Praised the partnerships between education stakeholders and the private sector to launch the state's nationally recognized work-based education program, Talent Ready Utah.

Vermont

Gov. Phil Scott (R)

State of the State Address | January 4, 2018

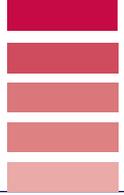
- Highlighted the state's increased investment of \$3 million in the Vermont State College System.
- Proposed offering tuition-free college in Vermont for those who serve in the state's National Guard and expediting a program to award credit to veterans seeking professional licensing.
- Outlined his plan to expand technical education for adults to better serve their training and retraining needs to create additional opportunities in the state.
- Underlined the shrinking school-aged population, leading to a shrinking workforce, and the state's need to reverse this trend by persuading out-of-state workers to relocate to Vermont.

Virginia

Gov. Ralph Northam (D)

State of the State Address | January 13, 2018

- Gov. Ralph Northam did not mention higher education in his remarks.



Washington

Gov. Jay Inslee (D)

State of the State Address | January 9, 2018

- Outlined his desire to continue the state's outstanding legacy on education.
- Urged the legislature to pass legislation that ensures the availability of scholarships for Dreamers.
- Requested funding to continue his administration's Career Connect Washington initiative, expanding career-connected learning.
- Highlighted the state's first apprenticeships, and called to expand the opportunity for veterans and other students in the state.

West Virginia

Gov. Jim Justice (D)

State of the State Address | January 10, 2018

- Proposed increasing the state's workforce development offerings by creating a program for students to obtain an associate degree while in high school and a program to add a 13th year to high school where students could receive additional certifications.
- Mentioned his plan to explore making the state's community and technical colleges free.

Wisconsin

Gov. Scott Walker (R)

State of the State Address | January 24, 2018

- Praised the freezing of University of Wisconsin's tuition for in-state undergraduates for the last six years, estimating the freeze saved the average student more than \$6,300 over four years.
- Highlighted the ongoing efforts to support apprenticeships, which have doubled in number since 2011.
- Noted the partnership between the state and financial institutions to aid in the student loan refinancing process.

- Reinforced the state's commitment to veteran benefits, including the tuition-free college education they can receive and the recently expanded eligibility to include veterans' spouses and families.
- Proposed using \$20 million designated in prior legislation to establish a new Wisconsin Career Creator, a program that expands dual enrollment programs and provides scholarships for education and training and additional funding for the Wisconsin Technical College System.
- Mentioned his budget request to increase funding for vocational training within the state's correctional system.

Wyoming

Gov. Matt Mead (R)

State of the State Address | February 12, 2018

- Highlighted ongoing construction projects on the University of Wyoming (UW) and community college campuses, including a recently approved design for the Science Initiative Building on UW's campus.
- Requested funding for capital construction on community college campuses.
- Reinforced the legislature's budget request to fund workforce training programs to build the skilled, educated and prepared workforce that businesses need.

Contributing:

Dylan Opalich, Assistant Director, State Relations and Policy Analysis

aascu.org/policy • [Twitter @aascupolicy](https://twitter.com/aascupolicy) • 202.293.7070