



# DAILY BRIEFING

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Tuesday, March 1, 2022

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## NCHER Annual Conference: Register Today, See You in Savannah, GA!

NCHER will hold its Annual Conference on June 6-8, 2022 at The DeSoto in Savannah, GA. The conference, which is open and designed for everyone across the higher education finance industry, will provide attendees with ample opportunities to network, learn, and take information back home that they can use in their current jobs – from hearing about the current trends and hot topics to exploring new and potential business opportunities. The NCHER staff is currently working on a draft program agenda that will be released in the coming weeks; in the meantime, [register](#) today and take advantage of the Early Bird registration rate. Also, be sure to make your hotel reservations [online](#) or by calling (800) 239-5118. When calling the hotel, be sure to mention the NCHER 2022 Annual Conference in order to guarantee a room rate of \$182 per room, per night.

We look forward to seeing you for our first in-person conference since 2020 – in Savannah, Georgia!

# White House Releases Preview of State of the Union Address

Tonight at 9:00 p.m., President Joe Biden will give his first State of the Union to Congress, amid both domestic and international crisis impacting the United States. Yesterday, the White House released a [fact sheet](#) previewing the speech. As noted in the fact sheet, the President will discuss the need to expand the middle class by promoting skills-based hiring through Registered Apprenticeships and labor-management partnership training programs, and a new budget proposal to invest in skills-based hiring research tools and technical assistance. He will also urge Congress to increase funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Minority-Serving Institutions to help these institutions expand academic programs in “high-demand” fields, such as computer science, engineering, and nursing. The fact sheet also suggests the President will ask Congress to increase the maximum award for the Pell Grant program by more than \$2,000.

The fact sheet does not mention whether President Biden will announce anything related to student loan debt or forgiveness.

## U.S. Department of Education News

For today's *Federal Register*, click [here](#).

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## General News

[Insider](#) reports that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau recently released a bulletin detailing how it will monitor student loan companies' actions when it comes to debt forgiveness. The agency will oversee how companies are informing borrowers of the U.S. Department of Education's recent reforms to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.

[The Times Higher Education](#) reports that Russian academics are risking arrest when expressing opposition to the Ukrainian war. While it appears a majority of academics want an end to the conflict, many have refrained from joining protests across Russia due to fear of arrest and loss of livelihood. Academics and researchers have turned to online

petitions and protests to call for an “immediate” stop to the war.

[\*Forbes\*](#) reports that Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) play a considerable role in producing Black business owners and entrepreneurs. There is an opportunity for HBCUs to train and develop Black entrepreneurs to sustain business in their communities because of entrepreneurship degrees and certificate programs.

[\*Inside Higher Ed\*](#) reports on the new Department of Race, Diaspora, and Indigeneity at the University of Chicago. Amongst the current backlash against the study and teaching of race-related issues in schools, the Department is determined to be open to challenges and change by providing spaces for engagement and discussion.

[\*Inside Higher Ed\*](#) reports that when the COVID-19 pandemic prevented a College of Wooster professor from teaching at a local correctional facility, she brought the incarcerated students to her campus classroom virtually by using robots. Incarcerated students’ faces appear on screens of “telepresence robots,” which resembles a motor scooter with an iPad attached.

[\*The Chronicle\*](#) reports that higher education groups are among nearly 200 organizations calling for special protections for Ukrainian students at American colleges and universities, while some Members of Congress are advocating for the expulsion of their Russian classmates.

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