



DAILY BRIEFING

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

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Senate HELP Committee Approves Nominations of Loyd and Bruce for Senior Roles at Department of Education

Today, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee met in executive session to consider several nominations for the U.S. Department of Education. Following opening statements, the committee approved the nomination of Amy Loyd to serve as the next Assistant Secretary for Career and Technical Education by voice vote. The committee then approved the nomination of Sandra Bruce to serve as the next Inspector General, also by voice vote. Both nominations now head to the full U.S. Senate for further

consideration.

“This pandemic has made life harder for workers, students, and families across the country,” said Chairwoman Patty Murray (D-WA) in a [statement](#). “If we are going to build back stronger and fairer from this pandemic, then our federal agencies must be fully-staffed with highly-qualified people who will help us respond to and rebuild from this crisis. I know these nominees all have the experience needed to help support workers, students, and families across the country, and I’ll be pushing hard to get their nominations across the finish line.”

For further coverage, including an archived webcast of the markup session, visit the [committee website](#).

House Financial Services Committee Releases November Schedule

Today, House Financial Services Committee Chairwoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) [announced](#) the committee’s schedule for the month of November 2021. The hearings and markups of interest to the NCHER membership include the following:

- **November 3rd at 10:00 a.m. ET:** The Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Financial Institutions will convene for a hybrid hearing entitled, “Cyber Threats, Consumer Data, and the Financial System.”
- **November 16th at 10:00 a.m. ET:** The Full Committee will convene for a hybrid markup. A list of bills will be provided at a later date.

The hearings and markups will be livestreamed on the [committee website](#).

White House Nominates Rosenworcel for FCC Chairwoman

Today, the White House [announced](#) that it will nominate Acting Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel to serve another term as a commissioner on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and has designated her as chair of the commission. Ms. Rosenworcel has served as a commissioner since 2012 and is known to be a fierce opponent of robocalls and a strong supporter of strengthening consumer protections in the nation’s telecommunications policies, including within the Telephone Consumer Protection Act. Prior to joining the FCC, she served as Senior Communications Counsel for the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee under Sen. John Rockefeller IV (D-

WV) and Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI). Before entering public service, she practiced communications law. The White House also announced that the President will nominate Gigi Sohn to serve as an FCC Commissioner, giving the Democratic members a majority on the commission. Ms. Sohn is a Distinguished Fellow at the Georgetown Law Institute for Technology Law and Policy and a Benton Senior Fellow and Public Advocate. From 2013-2016, she served as Counselor to Former FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler and, from 2001-2013, was Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Public Knowledge, a leading communications and technology policy advocacy organization serving the interests of consumers. She was previously a Project Specialist in the Ford Foundation's Media, Arts, and Culture Unit and Executive Director of the Media Access Project, a communications public interest law firm.

CFPB Issues Spanish Translation of Model Validation Notice

Last week, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) [issued](#) a Spanish translation of the model debt validation notice. According to the CFPB, the document is a “complete and accurate” Spanish translation of the model English language validation notice in Appendix B of its debt collection rule (Regulation F) released last December and [published in the *Federal Register*](#) on January 19, 2021. The use of this translated notice by a debt collector who provides or has provided a consumer with the model English-language validation notice provides a safe harbor for the rule's requirement that any translation be complete and accurate.

National Student Clearinghouse Research Center Report Finds Undergraduate Enrollment Decline

Today, the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center released a [report](#) that found fall enrollment numbers at institutions of higher education show no signs of recovery from last year's declines. The report found that undergraduate enrollment for fall 2021 fell by 3.2 percent, similar to last fall's drop of 3.4 percent. The data was based on 50.5 percent of institutions representing 8.4 million students reporting to the Research Center as of September 23, 2021. Combining fall 2020 and 2021 declines, the number of undergraduate students has now fallen by a total of 6.5 percent from two years ago in fall 2019. On the other hand, the report found that graduate student enrollment continues to grow, increasing 2.1 percent above last year's level for a total increase of 5.3 percent over two years. Overall, postsecondary education enrollment (undergraduate and graduate

combined) declined by 2.3 percent this year, for a total two-year decline of 4.6 percent. The report also found that:

- Undergraduate enrollment is down across all sectors of higher education, particularly among public two- and four-year colleges, and private for-profit institutions.
- Nationwide, freshman enrollment has declined 3.1 percent this fall. Public two-year institutions again showed the sharpest freshman enrollment declines among the three largest sectors (-6.1 percent).
- Cumulatively, male enrollment decline during the pandemic is now -9.3 percent, four percentage points steeper than the female decline of -5.3 percent, over the two years from 2019 to 2021.
- Undergraduate enrollment fell for every age group. Declines were steepest among 25- to 29-year-olds (-8.3 percent). Traditional college-age enrollment (18-24) declined across all sectors (-2.6 percent for age 18-20; -3.1 percent for age 21-24).

“Far from filling the hole of last year’s enrollment declines, we are still digging it deeper,” said Doug Shapiro, Executive Director of the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center. “A year and a half into the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to see significant nationwide declines in undergraduate students, and community colleges remain the most adversely affected sector, experiencing a 14.1 percent total enrollment decline since fall 2019.”

For more coverage, see these articles from [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#), [Higher Ed Dive](#), and [Inside Higher Ed](#).

FSA Announces Federal Perkins Loan Revolving Fund Distribution of Assets Timeline

Last week, the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA) issued an [electronic announcement](#) specifying the 2021-22 Distribution of Assets Timeline for the Perkins Loan Revolving Fund, which is part of the wind-down of the Federal Perkins Loan Program. According to FSA, once the Fiscal Operations Report and Application to Participate or FISAP is submitted through the Common Origination and Disbursement System, the Department will notify institutions that have cash in their Perkins Fund subject to the distribution of assets process.

U.S. Department of Education News

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

The following announcement was posted to the Information for Financial Aid Professionals website:

- [\(GENERAL-21-68\) OUTAGE ALERT – IRS DRT Outages November 2021](#)
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General News

[The Hill](#) reports House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) indicated that a deal on the Build Better Act, the massive social spending package that Democrats are trying to pass through budget reconciliation, is imminent and may be reached as early as Tuesday.

[CNBC](#) reports that Education Secretary Miguel Cardona told an Education Summit hosted by The Atlantic that the Biden Administration is still examining broad-based federal student loan forgiveness.

[WTOP](#) reports that lawmakers in the District of Columbia are considering extending consumer protections to student loan borrowers. Council members are hearing from the public and experts about how to craft legislation to further protect borrowers.

[Business Insider](#) reports that a growing number of colleges and universities are removing student loans from their financial aid packages, offering grants instead.

[Fox Business](#) reports that, according to a recent survey from Capital One, more high schoolers are saving money for clothes than college raising the need for student loans.

[Money](#) reports that 28 percent of degree programs leave students “financially worse off” than before college, according to a new report from the Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity.

[Fox Business](#) reports that five-year variable student loan refinance rates have plummeted to a new 16-month low.

[Bankrate](#) examines how students and families can avoid student loan forgiveness scams.

[Inside Higher Ed](#) reports that the United Negro College Fund and Complete College America are working to support Black colleges' efforts to upgrade their expertise and

replicate their unique educational offerings digitally.

[University Business](#) reports that nearly 60 percent of colleges and universities want to keep distance learning momentum going based on a new report that highlights pandemic-forced shifts may not be temporary.

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National Council of Higher Education Resources

1050 Connecticut Ave NW #65793

Washington, DC 20035

Phone: **(202) 822-2106**

Fax: (202) 822-2142