



DAILY BRIEFING

Monday, November 29, 2021

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Weekly Rundown

The NCHER Weekly Rundown, which includes the latest information on important events in Washington, DC, is available today and can be downloaded from the [NCHER website](#).

Politico: Foxx Seeks to Keep Top Republican Seat on House Education and Labor Committee Next Congress

Politico recently reported that Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC), the current Ranking Member of the House Education and Labor Committee, has privately lobbied Republican leaders for

a waiver to keep her seniority on the committee next Congress. She has also privately met with the panel's members to inform them of her intention to run again and to ensure they would be on board if leadership decides to grant her a waiver from term limits requirements put in place by the House Republican Conference. Those current rules limit members to six consecutive years serving in a top committee role regardless of whether the party is in the minority or majority. The rare exception to the rule includes former Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI) who received a waiver to stay atop the House Budget Committee in 2012.

The maneuvering from Ranking Member Foxx raises questions about the future role of Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY), the current House Republican Conference Chair who replaced Rep. Lynn Cheney (R-WI) and privately pledged earlier this year to limit her time in this role to one term. However, *Politico* noted that the path to keeping two top Republican women in their current posts could be smooth: Ranking Member Foxx has told colleagues that Rep. Stefanik has assured her of support for serving another term as the committee's top Republican, according to multiple people familiar with the dynamics. At the same time, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) would be creating controversy if he gave Ranking Member Foxx a waiver to stay on the committee, ensuring that other Republicans would seek permission to keep their committee positions. Because of that, some Republicans have questioned whether Rep. Foxx's desire to receive a waiver will pay off.

Federal Reserve Releases Minutes From Last FOMC Meeting, Reveals Heightened Concern Over Inflation

Last week, the Federal Reserve released the [minutes](#) from the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting held on November 2-3, 2021. According to the minutes, FOMC participants said that the sectors of the nation's economy most adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic have improved in recent months, though the growth in economic activity has slowed from the robust pace of the first half of the year. Supply chain challenges were seen as a significant constraint, as well as lower labor force participation. The committee members generally saw the elevated level of inflation as transitory; nonetheless, the minutes indicate that many participants noted that average inflation had already exceeded the central bank's 2 percent goal, when measured on a multiyear basis. FOMC participants cited "a number of factors—such as businesses' enhanced scope to pass on higher costs to their customers, the possibility that nominal wage growth had become more sensitive to labor market pressures, or accommodative financial conditions—that might result in inflation continuing at elevated levels." The

minutes indicated that participants believed the Fed's "substantial further progress" test had been met on both employment and increasing inflation, thus justifying reductions in asset purchases. Some participants preferred a faster pace in the reductions than the \$15 billion per month approved at the meeting. The next meeting of the FOMC will take place on December 14-15, 2021.

Education Design Labs Report Highlights How Four Community Colleges are Reimagining Higher Ed for Single Moms

Education Design Labs recently released a [report](#) that highlights a cohort of four community colleges that are collaborating to increase the number of single mothers earning degrees and credentials by 30 percent and collectively offer support to at least 6,000 single moms by summer 2024. In 2019, Education Design Labs selected Central New Mexico Community College, Delgado Community College in New Orleans, Ivy Tech Community College in Indianapolis, and Monroe Community College in Rochester, New York to develop and launch pilot programs by fall 2021 focused on academic supports tailored to single mothers at their institutions. Each college received \$50,000 in start-up funds from the ECMC Foundation aiming to improve higher education outcomes among underserved students.

According to the report, 89 percent of single moms attending college are low-income students, and only 28 percent of them earn a degree or credential within six years. With every level of education that a single mother completes, her likelihood of living in poverty declines by 32 percent. Teams at each community college conducted interviews with over 100 single mothers and almost 70 college faculty and staff members to better understand the barriers single mothers face at their individual institutions. The report recommends colleges have support models that help connect single mothers to services such as childcare and help them know which career opportunities will be available on their academic paths. All four colleges also took steps to add flexibility to classes and other support services. This is vital for single mothers, the report says, as they are often balancing school with work and family.

The report details the wide array of supports that college administrators and staff members designed based on student feedback, including the following:

- Ivy Tech Community College launched the Ivy Parents Achieve Success with Support, or I.PASS, on four of its campuses this fall. The program supports a cohort

of single mothers by enrolling them in a free course on academic success career planning strategies. Students can also choose weekly whether to take classes virtually or in person. The pilot program includes a weekly study hall, with meals and enrichment activities for children, and social events for single parents.

- Delgado Community College created an orientation course specifically for single moms, with specialized supports, to help 2,000 mothers get through their academic programs.
- Central New Mexico Community College developed the Luna Scholars Program, a \$1,500 scholarship for single mothers, which comes with designated coaches to provide guidance on course selection, the transfer process, and career and skills building.
- Monroe Community College partnered with Child Care Council, an organization which connects single mothers with local childcare options. The campus has a childcare center, but students who are parents also need these services when the center is closed in the evenings and on weekends.

For more coverage of the report, see these articles from [Higher Ed Dive](#) or [Inside Higher Ed](#).

U.S. Department of Education News

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

- [\(GENERAL-21-80\) Application and Verification Guide \[2022-2023 Federal Student Aid Handbook\]](#)

General News

[Inside Higher Ed](#) reports that it is still early, but data released last week by the Common Application suggests that the 2021–22 admissions year could be much better for many colleges and universities than last year.

[The Chronicle of Higher Education](#) notes that colleges and universities are hiring, but asks whether people want to work there? Higher education used to be insulated from the whims of the labor market, but that is no longer the case.

[Forbes](#) publishes an article reporting that defaulted borrowers could be next to receive student loan forgiveness from the federal government.

[KRON 4 News](#) reports that more people are giving a college savings account as alternate gift during this holiday season.

[The Foundation for Economic Education](#) includes an op-ed by Baker College Leadership Studies Chair Michael Heberling who argues that the forgiving of student loan debt by the federal government sets a very bad precedent and raises a number of awkward quest

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