



DAILY BRIEFING

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

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NCHER

**2022
Annual Conference**

*Hotel Reservations
Extended to May 19th*

ncher.org/event/2022-annual-conference/

NCHER Annual Conference: Hotel Cut-Off Today, Don't Forget to Call the DeSoto

The NCHER Annual Conference is scheduled for June 6-8, 2022 at The DeSoto in Savannah, Georgia. This important conference is open and designed for everyone across the higher education finance industry, and will provide attendees with ample opportunities to network, learn, and take information back home that they can use in their current jobs. The deadline to receive the conference rate at The DeSoto, which is \$182 per room, per night, is today. So make sure that you make your hotel reservations [online](#) or by calling (800) 239-5118. When calling the hotel, be sure to mention the NCHER 2022 Annual Conference to guarantee the room rate.

We look forward to seeing you in-person in Savannah!

FSA Releases Dear Colleague Letter Waiving Verification Requirements for 2022-2023 Award Year

Today, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA) issued a [Dear Colleague Letter \(DCL\)](#) outlining the verification requirements for the 2022-2023 award year. In the DCL, FSA said that it recognizes the need to continue to provide relief to millions of students and colleges facing challenges and barriers resulting from the ongoing national emergency. As such, it is maintaining those verification requirements that focus on identity and fraud for the remainder of the 2022-2023 award year while waiving the remaining verification requirements. The DCL reminds interested parties that the waiver applies no matter where institutions of higher education are in the verification process, e.g., if documents have been collected or requested, but verification has not been completed, or if an institution has not started the verification process or requested verification documentation. But it does not exempt colleges and universities from requirements to resolve conflicting information concerning a student's eligibility. FSA says that it is confident that institutions will be able to quickly implement these verification changes for students because they are the same changes made for the 2021-2022 award year.

Pell Institute Releases Report Examining Higher Education Equity

The Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education of the Council for

Opportunity in Education published its historical trend report titled, [Indicators of Higher Education Equity in the United States](#). The eighth report in the series, the Project aims to report on the status of education over time, measure changes in equity, identify policies, and practices that promote and hinder progress, and illustrate the need for policies to increase higher education attainment and equity. In this latest report, the Pell Institute analyzed seven “equity indicators” to address the following questions:

- Who enrolls in postsecondary education?
- What types of postsecondary institutions do students attend?
- Do financial aid and differences in college cost eliminate the barriers to college equity?
- How do students in the United States pay for college?
- How do educational attainment rates and outcomes vary by student characteristics?
- How does tertiary educational attainment and spending in the U.S. compare with other countries?
- How do TRIO programs work?

Key findings included the following:

- While the gap in college enrollment between 18- to 24-year-olds currently stands at 31 percent, this percentage has decreased by 11 percent since 1990.
- Enrollment gaps persist by race and ethnicity over time, with white students enrolled at higher rates than Black and Hispanic 18- to 24-year-olds.
- The difference in the percentages of federal grant recipients and non-recipients attending 4-year rather than 2-year colleges widened from 13 percentage points in 2000-2001 to 16 percentage points in 2018-19.
- Pell Grant recipient enrollment is unequal across institutions, with 63 percent of Pell Grant recipients attending “broad access institutions” and only 5 percent of recipients attending “highly selective institutions” in 2018.

The report concludes with a short essay on the Right to Higher Education written by the Pell Institute’s Margaret Cahalan. Ms. Cahalan identifies several obstacles to such right in the U.S., including variations across states, the view of education as a consumer commodity (rather than a right), acceptance of a stratified higher education system, and barriers to access and completion related to cost. She continues by providing several recommendations to work toward: equity and respect for diversity, equitable

implementation, improved access to higher education, debt-free college, equalization of institutional resources, persistence and completion support, and equitable access to relevant technologies.

For additional coverage, see this article from [Inside Higher Ed](#).

U.S. Department of Education News

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

The following announcement was posted to Federal Student Aid's Knowledge Center website:

- [\(GENERAL-22-26\) Memorial Day Federal Holiday Processing and Customer Service Hours](#)

General News

[U.S. News and World Report](#) publishes a column explaining why Congressional Democrats are talking about cancelling federal student loan debt and asks what is at stake for lawmakers and borrowers? The tenacity of a handful of progressive Democrats has kept alive the possibility of canceling significant amounts of student loan debt.

[Business Insider](#) reports that Mark Cuban supports President Joe Biden's proposal to forgive \$10,000 in federal student debt per borrower as long as 'ridiculous tuition fees' are addressed alongside it: 'We don't want this being a perennial problem.'

[Yahoo News](#) includes an op-ed by Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, Samuel Alito who argues student debt is a generational burden.

[Inside Higher Ed](#) reports that the percentage of male, Latino, and Black high school seniors who want to go to college has declined in the last three years, according to a survey by YouthTruth.

[Forbes](#) publishes a column reporting that the student loan crisis is much worse if this claim is true – 40 percent of student loan borrowers do not have a college degree.

[Inside Higher Ed](#) reports that community colleges that received revenue from targeted

tuition scholarship programs spent less on student services and classroom instruction, according to a study recently published in the journal Educational Policy.

[Higher Ed Dive](#) reports that college students and educators are not aligned with each other about how higher education should proceed once COVID-19 is no longer a public health emergency, according to new survey data from Anthology.

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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

MailPoet