



DAILY BRIEFING

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

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Save the Date: NCHER Legislative and Leadership Conference to Be Held February 6-8, 2023 in Washington, DC!

NCHER will hold its annual Legislative and Leadership Conference on February 6-8, 2023 at The Westin Washington, DC City Center. The conference, which will be in-person, is open and designed for everyone across the higher education finance industry and will provide important and timely sessions on the political and policy environment in Congress and the Biden Administration. The conference will provide attendees with

ample opportunities to network and learn, and allow time for our members to meet with their Congressional delegations on Capitol Hill. 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. Hotel reservations will also be available soon. We look forward to seeing you in Washington, DC!

DOJ Says Delinquency and Default Rates Will Rise if Loan Forgiveness is Blocked in Court Filing

The U.S. Department of Justice filed documents with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas urging the court to stay a decision to block the U.S. Department of Education from moving forward with its federal student loan forgiveness program, saying that such a move will dramatically increase delinquency and default rates. "Unless the [Education] Department is allowed to provide debt relief, we anticipate there could be an historically large increase in the amount of federal student loan delinquency and defaults as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic," Education Under Secretary James Kvaal [said](#) in the filing. The Biden Administration stopped accepting applications for its forgiveness plan last week after Judge Mark Pittman called the policy "unconstitutional" and struck it down. For additional coverage, see this article from [Forbes](#).

Consumer Groups Continue to Press White House to Extend Federal Student Loan Payment Pause

Consumer groups are continuing their efforts to pressure the White House to extend the current federal student loan payment and collections pause, which is slated to expire on December 31, 2022. The pause has been in place since March 2020. The advocates are pressuring the Biden Administration to continue the pause after a federal judge in Texas declared its federal student loan forgiveness program unconstitutional and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit issued a preliminary injunction blocking the program. The advocates argue that payments should not resume until the lawsuits challenging the debt relief plan are settled. "Until the administration can deliver on debt cancellation, it really cannot turn on payments," said Persis Yu, Deputy Executive Director for the Student Borrower Protection Center. "I think the administration was absolutely right in its reasoning that restarting repayment is going to have a devastating effect financially on borrowers. Cancellation is necessary to buffer that negative effect. It would be absolutely devastating to the finances of student loan borrowers to just restart repayment in

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

Strada Education Network Report Gathers Alumni Perspectives on How College Improves Their Lives

Strada Education Network recently released new research gathered from a nationally representative study of 3,230 alumni who have graduated with bachelor’s degrees since 2002. Key findings include the following:

1. Alumni who say they developed key skills during college earned \$8,700 more in their first year after graduation than peers who report low levels of skill development through college. They are also more likely to report life and career benefits from their education.
2. Developing skills can provide benefits for all students, but not equally. Strong skill development is associated with similar benefits in noneconomic outcomes across race, gender, and first-generation status, and similar economic benefits for men and women. However, for Black alumni, stronger self-assessments of skills developed do not appear to be associated with income gains.

In the foreword, Strada’s Ruth Watkins said, “Educators and institutions can take action to make sure students understand and develop the skills they need to succeed – with specific support for students who face the most significant barriers. To help students get the most from their education, educators can focus on key learning outcomes. We should not assume that students develop – or recognize they are developing – critical thinking, problem solving, communication, and leadership, as well as specialized skills associated with jobs in the 21st century. These skills should be designed into the curriculum, assessed, and made explicit to students so that they can better understand how their learning relates to key competencies that will benefit them beyond college.”

The full report can be found [here](#).

Washington State Study Links Financial Aid and Upward Mobility

The Washington Student Achievement Council (WASC) recently released a study tracking 44,050 public high school graduates who received financial aid and went on to graduate from a public college or university. The council discovered that all students who came from families with household incomes below \$63,000 saw their economic status rise within three years of earning a degree and entering the labor force. Young adults

from families at the lowest quartile (\$35,000 in annual household income) were soon earning more than their parents' total pay. This was true whether students graduated from a two-year or four-year college. Most striking of all, students who grew up in homes at the 12th or 13th income percentile leapfrogged toward the 50th income percentile after earning a college degree. Michael Meotti, Executive Director of WSAC, said: "The striking consistency of upward mobility across the most disadvantaged demographic groups suggests that completing a postsecondary degree is an essential lever for improving intergenerational economic opportunities."

U.S. Department of Education News

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

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

1. [\(GENERAL-22-87\)Reminder: Active Confirmation of TG Numbers \(SAIG Mailboxes\) and Electronic Services User Accounts Required by Dec. 14, 2022 to Maintain Access to Federal Student Aid Systems](#)

General News

[The Chronicle of Higher Education](#) reports on changing views of Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

[USA Today](#) says that federal student loan relief is not expected soon but here is what student and parent borrowers should do to prepare.

An online version of this Daily Briefing is available to view and print from the [Daily Briefing Section](#) of the [NCHER e-Library](#).



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