

## **Policy Preview:** An Update on the Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act

September 17, 2015





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## HEA Reauthorization Update

## A Way to View the Current Debate

- Reform to meet the needs of today's students
- Reform to address the evolving nature of higher education
- Reform to address accountability and oversight



## **Setting the Context**

# Why should all foundations care about the state of higher education?

# Should foundations be stakeholders at the table of the HEA deliberations?

## HEA Reauthorization Update

## Update on Reauthorization of Higher Education Act:

Background, Current Status and Prognosis

Mary Gardner Clagett Director for Workforce Policy Jobs for the Future





- Established in 1965, HEA is the primary federal law that supports postsecondary education in the U.S.
- Today, federal aid reaches 28 million people per year in FY 2015, \$138 billion spent on student financial aid.
- HEA supports over 6,000 public, private, nonprofit, and proprietary higher education institutions.
- Dramatic changes in higher education landscape, student populations, and spending = Congress looking for cost effective and flexible modes for delivering postsecondary coursework.
- Access, once the main purpose of Title IV, not enough now focused on quality, completion, and outcomes.



#### The Higher Education Act (HEA) authorizes a broad array of federal programs – most of which fall under two categories:

- Assistance to institutions to improve postsecondary programming; or
- Financial assistance to students (especially those who are low-income) to pay for postsecondary coursework – mostly found in Title IV of the Act.



#### **Eight Titles of HEA**

- Title I General Provisions
- Title II Teacher Quality Enhancement
- Title III Institutional Aid (Minority-serving Institutions and Programs)
- Title IV Student Assistance (Grants, Loans, Work Study)
- Title V Developing Institutions (Hispanic-serving Institutions & Programs)
- Title VI International Education
- Title VII Graduate and Postsecondary Improvement
- Title VIII Additional Programs (new programs added in 2008, mostly not funded)

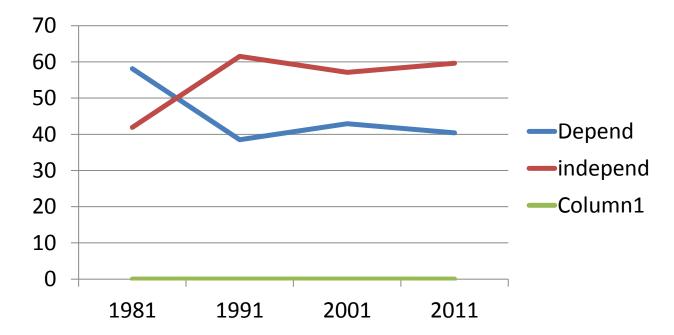


#### **Federal Spending on HEA**

- Title IV programs under HEA totaled over \$137.6 billion in FY 2013.
- Federal Pell grants alone totaled nearly \$32 billion awarded to nearly 9 million students in the 2013-14 academic year.
- The maximum Pell grant in 2015-16 is \$5,775.
- Because funding for student aid has increased at very high rates in recent years, Congress has looked for ways to reduce spending for title IV programs (e.g., elimination of ATB and year-round Pell, and the lifetime limit in FY12).
- This concern will impact HEA reauthorization reluctance to develop new programs or dramatically expand Title IV.



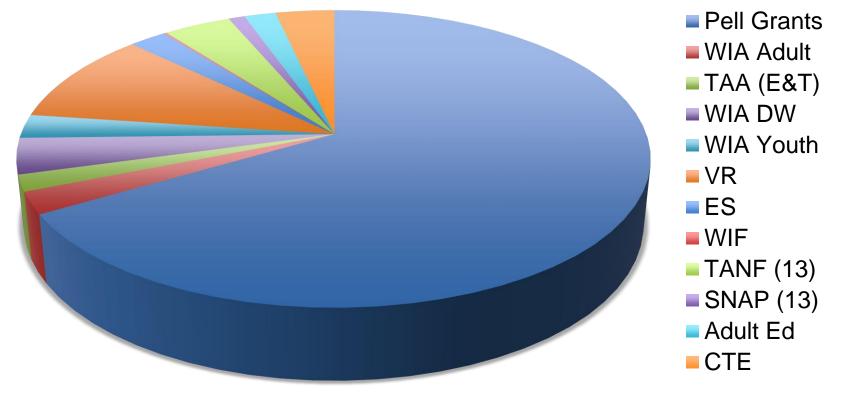
 The U.S. postsecondary education system, and federal student aid must reflect the needs of today's students, not just traditional students (the focus in the 1960s).



• The structure and culture of postsecondary education and training and the student aid that finances it must change to move students through education and training more quickly and efficiently.



Federal student aid, authorized under title IV of the Higher Education Act (HEA), far surpasses funding for training under WIA and other federal workforce training programs combined.



\* Pell Grants for students age 24 and older shown in blue



#### **House Priorities:**

- Empowering students to make informed decisions;
- Simplifying and improving student aid;
- Promoting innovation;
- Increasing access and completion; and
- Ensuring strong accountability while limiting federal role.



#### **Senate HEA Reauthorization Workgroups:**

- Accountability (outcomes);
- Accreditation (transparency, outcomes, program/institution eligibility for title IV programs);
- Affordability & Financial Aid (FAFSA simplification, costs, title IV eligibility); and
- Campus Sexual Assault & Safety.



#### **Three Senate Papers**

Senate Papers to Inform Reauthorization:

- Accreditation
- Risk Sharing
- Consumer Information



#### Senate:

- Hearings on-going
- Staff Work Groups meeting
- Senate action possible by Thanksgiving

**HEA** Timeline

#### House:

- Hearings on-going
- House has passed HEA bills in prior Congresses
- Legislation possible by end of year





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## HEA Reauthorization Update

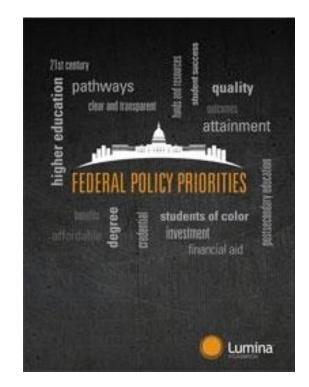
## **Issues and Action**

#### **Julie Peller** Director of Federal Policy Lumina Foundation

## Lumina's Approach to Federal Policy: Setting Priorities

#### Released Federal Policy Priorities in 2014:

- 1. Create and Expand Pathways
- 2. Ensure postsecondary education is affordable
- 3. Define quality in terms of student learning



http://www.luminafoundation.org/files/resources/federalpolicy-priorities-full.pdf

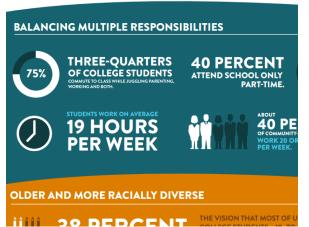


## Lumina's Approach to Federal Policy: both funding and thought leadership

## **Grantmaking:** flows from Federal Policy Priorities:

- $\checkmark$  seeding policy ideas
- ✓ fostering open conversations

#### THINK YOU KNOW THE FACTS? TODAY'S COLLEGE STUDENTS ARE.



#### Thought Leadership: Active participation in DC and using new modes of communication

http://www.luminafoundation.org/todaysstudent



## Lumina's Approach to Federal Policy: Key Issues

**Innovation:** New ways of educating and new providers of education

Affordability: Not just more aid; reform is needed to make aid work for students

**Quality:** Using an outcomes-based approach to assess quality



## HEA Reauthorization Update

## **Panel Discussion**

## and

## **Open Lines for Q & A**

## HEA Reauthorization Update

## **Summary Thoughts**





#### Check out the Council's General Advocacy Toolkit at <u>www.cof.org/resource/advocacy-toolkit</u>

Check out Jobs for the Future's Policy & Advocacy page at <u>www.jff.org/policy-advocacy</u>

Check out Lumina Foundation's Federal Policy Priorities at <u>www.luminafoundation.org</u>



# To continue the conversation, share perspectives and strategies, and connect with colleagues – head over to the Philanthropy Exchange at <u>www.exchange.cof.org</u>

#### To sign up for our *Washington Snapshot* newsletter, e-mail <u>govt@cof.org</u>





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- Changes in Government Cost Reimbursement Rules for Nonprofits – October 14
- Reauthorization of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 – October 29
- The State of Play of Immigration
  Proposals in Congress November 18
  Register at <u>www.cof.org/events</u>



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