

# Iowa Valley Community College District 2016 Congressional Updates

By Cindy S. Schulte, IVCCD Director of Governmental Affairs



## DECEMBER 2016

### Gainful Employment Earnings Report Released

On Nov. 17, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) released a report on data on the typical earnings of graduates in college career training programs. The report shows that graduates of career training programs at public institutions fare better than those of comparable programs at for-profit institutions. The data represents the mean and median earnings of graduates of career college programs (reported by the Social Security Administration) as part of the ED's Gainful Employment regulations. Findings in the report are:

- Overall, the mean earnings of graduates of public undergraduate certificate programs are nearly \$9,000 higher than mean earnings of for-profit graduates.
- Public institution graduates of certificate programs are more likely to have attended programs that provide training for higher earning fields (i.e. nursing) in comparison to graduates

of certificate programs at for-profit colleges.

- Nearly one-third of the students at for-profit colleges graduated from programs where the typical graduate earned less than a full-time minimum wage worker earns in a year (compared with only 14 percent in the public sector).

The ED report can be found at:

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/about/data-center/school/ge?src=press-release> .

### New Congressional Legislation

**H.R. 6231 – Making College More Affordable Act** (Sponsor: Rep. David N. Cicilline, D-RI-1). The bill amends the Higher Education Act of 1965 with the intent to provide an opportunity to carry out an income-contingent repayment plan for Federal Interest Free Education Loans for undergraduate students. A borrower shall have an aggregate monthly payment for the outstanding balance of principal and interest, and the bill prohibits an employer from using any information about an employee's outstanding balance or principal and interest due on such loans for any purposes against the employee. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce on 9/28/2016.

**H.R. 4594 – Making College Affordable and Accessible Act of**

2016 (Sponsor: Rep. Jared Polis, D-Co-2). The bill amends the Higher Education Act of 1965 to make college affordable and accessible. The bill expands access for high school students to opportunities offered in credit-based academic transition programs established through partnerships between high schools and institutions of higher education utilizing dual or concurrent enrollment programs or early college high school programs that enable such students to earn college credits while in high school. Funding will be appropriated to support teachers, principals, and other school leaders with professional development and to support activities such as designing course curriculum in collaboration with teachers from the local educational agency and faculty from eligible institutions. Funding will also be provided to support outreach programs to provide elementary and secondary school students with information about academic preparation. The bill was referred to the House Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training on 9/19/2016.

**H.R. 6325 – Workforce Regulatory Review Act of 2016** (Sponsor: Rep. Tim Walberg, R-MI-7). The bill establishes an independent advisory committee to review certain regulations. The commission shall be composed of nine members appointed by the

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President and representing prominent citizens of the United States with national recognition and a significant depth of experience and responsibilities in matters relating to government service, regulatory policy, economics, federal agency management, public administration, and law. The bill was referred to the House Rules Committee on 11/16/2016.

For more information on Congressional activity, please contact:

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