

# Iowa Valley Community College District 2016 Congressional Updates

By Cindy S. Schulte, IVCCD Director of Governmental Affairs



## September 2016

### International Education Week Plans Underway

A joint initiative between the U.S. Department of Education (ED) and the U.S. Department of State has been planned and includes an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide efforts during the week of Nov. 14-18. The week's activities will be designated to promote programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn, and exchange experiences. The theme of the event is called, "Promoting Cultural and Global Competencies for All."

### FAFSA Changes Coming

On Oct. 1, 2016, students will be able to file their 2017-2018 FAFSA rather than beginning the process on Jan. 1, 2017. Beginning with the 2017-2018 FAFSA, students will be required to report income and tax information from an earlier tax year. Students will be asked to use older income and tax information which means they will not have to use estimates anymore

or have to log in at a later date to update their information. The new guidance will provide students greater opportunities to meet most deadlines of universities and colleges to explore and understand financial aid options.

### New Resources Released to Ensure Campus Safety

On Sept. 8, the ED and the U.S. Department of Justice released new tools for colleges to improve school climates, ensure safety, and support student achievement in the classroom environment. The tools will be made available for campus law enforcement agencies that are also available for law enforcement agencies that will ensure positive school environments to keep students safe. At the college and university level, the guidance is the result of the President's Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing that provided recommendations for campus and law enforcement agencies to work together to keep students safe and safeguard students' civil rights. More information can be found at:

[http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/taskforce/taskforce\\_finalreport.pdf](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/taskforce/taskforce_finalreport.pdf)

and for more information on the Administration's work on school climate and discipline go to:

[www.ed.gov/rethinkdiscipline](http://www.ed.gov/rethinkdiscipline).

### New Congressional Legislation

**H.R. 5965** – *To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education to disclose their concealed carry or open carry policies with respect to*

*firearms, and for other purposes.* (Sponsor: Rep. Keith Ellison, D-MN-5) – No text or summary of the bill was available for viewing on the website. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Education and Workforce on 9/8/2016.

**H.R. 5972** – *To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide protection for students who report sexual assault, and for other purposes.* (Sponsor: Rep. Jacque Speier, D-CA-14). There was no text or summary of the bill available for viewing on the website. The bill was referred to the House Judiciary Committee on 9/8/2016.

**H.R. 5962** – *To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the automatic recertification of income for income-driven repayment plans, and for other purposes.* (Sponsor: Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, D-OR-11). The bill did not have a text or summary for public viewing on the website. The bill was referred to the House Ways & Means Committee on 9/8/2016.

**H.R. 5528** – *Simplifying the Application for Student Aid Act.* (Sponsor: Rep. Joseph Heck, R-NV-3). The bill simplifies the FAFSA process and makes every effort to allow applicants to utilize the current data retrieval tool to transfer data available from the IRS to reduce the amount of

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original data entry by applicants and strengthen the reliability of data used to calculate expected family contributions. The bill was received in the Senate and read twice and referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on 7/12/2016.

For more information on Congressional activity, please contact:

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**H.R. 3179** – *Empowering Students Through Enhanced Financial Counseling Act*. (Sponsor: Sen. Michael Bennet, D-CO). The bill requires eligible institutions to ensure that each individual who receives a Federal Pell Grant or a loan made under part D receives comprehensive information on the terms and conditions of such Federal Pell Grant or loan. The bill requires the eligible institution to provide information to the student on his/her responsibilities to such Federal Pell Grant or loan. The bill requires exit counseling and online counseling tools to be provided to students. The U.S. Secretary of Education shall conduct a rigorous longitudinal study of the impact and effectiveness of the student loan counseling not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the bill. The bill was read twice and referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions on 7/12/2016 and was introduced in the Senate on 7/23/2016.