

2017 Congressional Agenda Del Mar College

More than 2.8 million low- and moderate-income community college students receive Pell Grants each year. The grants reach more than one-third of all community college credit students and help them pay for tuition, course materials, transportation, and living expenses. In conjunction with low-cost tuition, Pell Grants are the building block of community college access and success.

The Federal 2018 Fiscal Year Budget proposes to cut \$3.9 billion from an existing Pell Grant reserve fund.

However, a bipartisan spending bill currently under review in the U.S. Senate would cut \$2.6 billion from the reserve fund and increase the Pell Grant award by \$100.

Nearly 5,000 Del Mar College students rely on Pell Grants to cover part or all their college costs. Del Mar College supports this priority of the American Association of Community College (AACC's) agenda:

- **Protect the Pell Grant surplus, and utilize surplus funds to reinvest in the program. Allow Pell funding to cover more than 4 community college semesters and allow maximum awards to be adjusted for inflation.**

Del Mar College's enrollment in workforce and continuing education courses, those leading to credentials and entry-level jobs in high-demand occupations such as welding and nurse aide, doubled in the past five years. In 2016- 10,353 individual students earned 29,164 workforce credentials. Del Mar College supports this item on the AACC agenda.

- **Allow additional access to Pell Grants for short-term workforce programs.**
- **Reauthorize the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education (CTE) Act to maintain program flexibility, allowing community colleges to address local needs while strengthening CTE programs. Enhance student pathways that promote college and career readiness and strengthen community college ties to businesses.**

Perkins funding has allowed Del Mar College to create strategic initiatives for increased participation in Career and Technical Education in programs such as Registered Nurse Education and Petroleum Process Technology. CTE programs awarded certificates and associate degrees to 1,068 DMC students in 2014.