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# An Insider Perspective: Higher Education Funding Opportunities and Policy Insights in the New Biden Administration

#### Panelists:

Robert Moran, Dr. Barbara K. Mistick, John McAllister

#### **Moderator:**

Jessica C. Gerrity, Ph.D.

#### **Your Panelists**



John McAllister
Founding and Managing
Partner, McAllister & Quinn

Co-founded McAllister & Quinn in 2004 after working on Capitol Hill and in private consulting

Built and now oversees the firm's higher education practice and its 85+ clients

Advocates for higher education by serving on the board at his alma mater, Albright College, and engaging with national associations such as CIC, ACCU, NAICU, and AASCU



Jessica C. Gerrity, Ph.D.
Vice President, McAllister &
Quinn

Manages a broad range of McAllister & Quinn's higher education clients and helps to develop and implement the practice's strategic goals

Formerly research manager for the Congress and Judiciary Section in the Government and Finance Division at the Congressional Research Service (2010-2014)

Previously Assistant Professor of Political Science at Washington College (2007-2010)

Previously American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow, Senator Jack Reed (RI) (2006-2007)

#### **Your Panelists**



Barbara K. Mistick, D.M.

President, National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities

Is the fourth president of NAICU

Previously president of Wilson College (PA)

Previously president and director of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

Has been an entrepreneur, educator and leader at institutions such as the H.J. Heinz School of Public Policy and Management at Carnegie Mellon University (PA) and the National Education Center for Women in Business at Seton Hill University (PA), and at various businesses she managed and/or founded.



Robert Moran
Principal, Bose Public Affairs
Group

Moran is a principal and member of the federal relations team at the Bose Public Affairs Group

Previously worked as the education policy director for the U.S. Senate Committee for Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

Previously served as the director of federal relations and policy analysis for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities

Worked as a senior advisor in the Office of the Under Secretary under President George W. Bush at the U.S. Department of Education

## McAllister & Quinn

#### Washington, D.C.,-based consulting firm

- Founded in 2004
- Secures funding for a wide range of colleges and universities

#### **Expertise and Record of Success**

40+

Experienced staff from colleges and universities, federal government, and nonprofits

275+

Grant consultants, subject matter experts, coaches, reviewers, and agency specialists \$350M+

Secured since 2010 from competitive sources



## Bose Public Affairs Group



- Offices in Washington, DC and Indianapolis
- More than 40 professionals
- BPAG advocates for our clients' legislative, regulatory, procurement, political and communication interests
- Our bipartisan team members have in-depth experience in government, politics, communications and business
- Our team members have built long-standing relationships with key decision makers in the White House, Congress, federal agencies, state legislatures and local government, as well as the media and campaign and political operatives
- Through this extensive network of relationships, BPAG can best represent our clients' issues and concerns from consultation through execution
- Collectively, BPAG has been instrumental in securing more than **\$1 billion** in federal support for its clients through direct appropriations, alterations in federal mandatory spending laws and changes in the U.S. tax code in recent years.



### National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities



- Represents more than 1,700 degree-granting private, nonprofit colleges and universities, located in all 50 states and 391 congressional districts
- NAICU's policy mission is focused on issues related to student aid, tax policy, and government regulation in service to protecting the independence of private, nonprofit institutions, and ensuring that all students have access to higher education

## Federal Agency Spending Increases 2016-2020



**\$8.5** billion (FY21)

for the National Science Foundation (NSF)



**\$1 billion (+14%)** from FY16 (Obama administration)

\*The dollar amounts listed do not include higher education funding included in the CARES Act passed on March 27, 2020, the coronavirus stimulus package passed on December 27, 2020, or any future funding appropriated in response to the pandemic.



\$73.5 billion

for the Department of Education



**\$5.2 billion (+8%)** from FY16



\$42.9 billion

for the National Institutes of Health (NIH)



**\$10.6 billion (+33%)** from FY16



\$7.5 billion

for the Health and Services Administration (HRSA)





**\$1.4 billion (+22%)** from FY16



**\$167.5** million

for the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA)



**\$167.5** million

for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)





\$19.6 million (+13%) for both the NEA and the NEH from FY16



#### **Universe of Grants**

#### **Institutional Federal Grants**

Scholarships
Curriculum Development
Programs
Equipment

## Student Support Service Grants

Recruitment
Retention
Counseling
International Programming



#### **Faculty Research Grants**

Investigator Initiated Research
Fellowships
K-12 Partnerships
Faculty-led Student Research

#### **Foundations**

Local Federal State

#### Examples of Proposed Biden Administration Initiatives Impacting Higher Education

Invest in research infrastructure at community colleges, HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs

Double Pell grant support for students







Create more Pell-eligible grants for four-year colleges

Tighten restrictions on for-profit institutions





Increase public college assistance for families with incomes below \$125K

Support workforce training programs





Additional COVID relief funding for colleges and universities

Source: The Biden Plan for Education Beyond High School, Biden/Harris Campaign Website

## COVID-19 Stimulus Package Highlights

- \$20 billion to public and private nonprofit colleges through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)
  - Institutions with approved applications for HEERF funding under the CARES Act are not required to submit new or revised applications to receive HEERF funding under this stimulus package.
  - Institutions must provide at least the same dollar amount of emergency grants to students as required to provide under the CARES Act.
- \$1.7 billion for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and certain other institutions
- \$113 million for institutions of higher education with "unmet need"

## Anticipated Process for Distribution of Funds

- Department of Education will determine your institutional allocation and the guidance on allowable uses of those funds
- Institutions will electronically sign a Certification and Agreement for the new uses of funds
- Institutions first must have filed their CARES Act Annual Report (due February 1, 2021)
- Distributed directly to institutions who already received CARES funds without new applications (G5 System)

## **Control of Congress**

#### **House of Representatives**

- Democrats maintain control
- 117<sup>th</sup> Make-up: 222 Democrats 211 Republicans

#### **Senate**

- Control change to Democrats
- 117<sup>th</sup> Make-up: 50 Democrats- 50 Republicans

## House and Senate Education Leadership

#### **Committee on Education and Labor**

- Chairman Bobby Scott (VA)
- Ranking Member Dr. Virginia Foxx (NC)

#### Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

- Chairwoman Patty Murray (WA) (?)
- Ranking Member Richard Burr (NC) (?)

## President-elect Biden's Agenda

- COVID-19 education funding relief
- Student Loan Relief
  - Extend no-payment/no-interest CARES Act provisions
  - Provide debt forgiveness of up to \$10,000
- Pell Grant increase
- Regulation of for-profit institutions
  - Borrower Defense of Repayment
  - Gainful Employment
- Free community college and tuition-free public four-year

## **New Secretary of Education**



## Dr. Miguel A. Cardona

- Background
  - Commissioner of Education in Connecticut
  - Assistant Superintendent for Meriden Public Schools
  - Principal (10 years) and Elementary School Teacher
  - Adjunct Professor University of Connecticut
- Strong advocate for public education
- Focus on equity gaps
- Workforce-ready

# Panel Discussion

SETTING YOUR INSTITUTION UP FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT



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