



## **Double Pell**

AACRAO encourages Congress to raise the maximum Pell Grant to \$13,000 and bring affordable, high-quality college education within reach of all students. The Pell Grant is a proven program that has been the foundation of federal student aid for decades, opening the doors of college and opportunity to low- and moderate-income students. Doubling the Pell Grant award will help more students earn a degree.

### **Impact of the Pell Grant Program**

- Pell Grants help nearly 7 million low-and moderate-income students attend and complete college annually. That is 40 percent of undergraduates at U.S. colleges and universities.
- Students from all 50 states and all corners of the country—from rural areas to cities to everywhere in between—rely on the Pell Grant program to pursue their college aspirations and achieve a brighter future. Nearly 70 percent of Pell Grant dollars go to students with a family income below \$30,000 and nearly 90 percent to students with a family income below \$50,000.
- Pell Grants are especially critical for students of color, with nearly 60 percent of black students, and half of American Indian, Alaska Native students, and Hispanic students receiving grants.

### **Why Double Pell?**

- The share of college costs covered by the Pell Grant is at an all-time low. Nearly 50 years ago, the maximum grant covered more than three-quarters of the cost of attending a four-year public college. Pell Grants now cover less than one-third of those costs.
- Unsurprisingly, Pell Grant recipients continue to bear disproportionate student debt burdens. Pell Grant recipients today are nearly twice as likely as other students to have student loans and those who do borrow graduate with over \$4,500 more debt than their higher-income peers.
- Students from low-and moderate-income families are in critical need of additional grant aid to pay for college. Doubling the maximum Pell Grant—and permanently indexing the grant to inflation to ensure its value does not diminish again over time—will honor the history and value of these grants as the keystone federal investment in college affordability and help more students attend college, earn a degree, get a good-paying job, and ensure them a brighter future.
- Doubling the maximum Pell Grant is a good investment that will boost economic mobility. In 2018, the median earnings of bachelor's degree recipients with no advanced degree working full time were \$24,900 higher than those of high school graduates.
- Over the course of a lifetime, this translates into an individual with a bachelor's degree earning more than \$900,000 more than someone with only a high school degree.

### **About AACRAO**

Founded in 1910, the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) is one of the oldest nonprofit higher education associations in the nation and represents approximately 11,000 higher education admissions and registration professionals who represent more than 2,600 institutions and agencies in the United States.

Our mission is to provide guidelines and standards for the higher education community regarding record management, admissions, enrollment management, information technology, and student services.

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