



## The Spotlight Shines on Community Colleges

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The [American Families Plan](#) that President Joe Biden unveiled yesterday promises to widely increase government support to families through expanded health care, family leave, and child care. With First Lady Jill Biden, a proud community college instructor, sitting in the gallery, Biden also proposed free universal preschool and tuition-free community college.

Biden's plan for free tuition demonstrates strong support for community colleges, an investment that provides access to the middle class for underserved communities and is key to promoting the nation's economic growth.

"Investing in education is a down payment on the future of America," the plan says. "Today, 70 percent of jobs are held by people with more than a high school degree. American workers need and deserve additional support to build their skills, increase their earnings, remain competitive, and share in the benefits of the new economy."

Specifically, the plan calls for:

- Two years of tuition-free community college, including for Dreamers.
- Increasing the \$6,245 Pell Grant maximum by \$1,400.
- Providing retention and completion programs at colleges serving low-income students.
- Subsidizing tuition at historically Black and other minority-serving colleges and universities.

I am delighted to see a bright spotlight on community colleges and the recognition from the White House that we serve as an engine for economic recovery. We see countless examples from our students of the transformational power of our colleges and the lives we have changed for the better.

While the President's bold plan gives us hope for the future, there is a long way to go to get it passed. I remain cautiously optimistic and will be closely watching in the months ahead.

In the meantime, let us celebrate the national focus on community colleges. We have often been described as the best kept secret in higher education – I am glad that the secret is getting out about the great work that we do.

Thank you for your commitment to community colleges.

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