



## **AGENDA**

### **EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

#### **Committee Member**

*Trustee Charlene Johnson, Chair*

*Trustee Monica Richart*

*Dr. Adriana Tamez*

#### **Alternate Member**

*Trustee Eva Loreda*

**April 3, 2024**

**3:00 PM**

**3100 Main Street, 2nd Floor Auditorium, Houston, Texas 77002**

**NOTICE OF A MEETING OF THE  
*External Relations Committee*  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**April 3, 2024**

Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of the External Relations Committee of the Board of Trustees of Houston Community College will be held on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 3:00 PM, or after, and from day today as required, 3100 Main Street, 2nd Floor Auditorium, Houston, Texas 77002. The items listed in this Notice may be considered in any order at the discretion of the Committee Chair and items listed for closed session discussion may be discussed in open session and vice versa as permitted by law. Actions taken at this Meeting do not constitute final Board action and are only Committee recommendations to be considered by the Board at the next Regular Board meeting.

**I Call to Order**

- A. Opportunity for Public Comments

**II Topics For Discussion and/or Action:**

- A. 2024 National Legislative Summit & Related Policy Matters

**III Adjournment to closed or executive session pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071; 551.072 and 551.074, the Open Meetings Act, for the following purposes:**

**A. Legal Matters**

Consultation with legal counsel concerning pending or contemplated litigation, a settlement offer, or matters on which the attorney's duty to the System under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct clearly conflicts with the Texas Open Meetings Laws.

**B. Personnel Matters**

Deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer, employee or board member to hear complaints or changes against an officer, employee or board member unless the officer, employee or board member who is the subject of the deliberation or hearing requests a public hearing.

**C. Real Estate Matters**

Deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property for Agenda items if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the System in negotiations with a third person.

**IV. Additional Closed or Executive Session Authority:**

If, during the course of the meeting covered by this Notice, the Board should determine that a closed or executive meeting or session of the Board should be held

or is required in relation to any items included in this Notice, then such closed or executive meeting or session as authorized by Section 551.001 et seq. of the Texas Government Code (the Open Meetings Act) will be held by the Board at that date, hour and place given in this Notice or as soon after the commencement of the meeting covered by the Notice as the Board may conveniently meet in such closed or executive meeting or session concerning:

Section 551.071 - For the purpose of a private consultation with the Board's attorney about pending or contemplated litigation, a settlement offer, or matters on which the attorney's duty to the System under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct clearly conflicts with the Texas Open Meetings Laws.

Section 551.072 - For the purpose of discussing the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the governmental body in negotiations with a third person.

Section 551.073 - For the purpose of considering a negotiated contract for a prospective gift or donation to the System if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the System in negotiations with a third person.

Section 551.074 - For the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer, employee or board member to hear complaints or changes against an officer, employee or board member unless the officer, employee or board member who is the subject of the deliberation or hearing requests a public hearing.

Section 551.076 - To consider the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation of security personnel or devices, or a security audit.

Section 551.082 - For the purpose of considering discipline of a student or to hear a complaint by an employee against another employee if the complaint or charge directly results in a need for a hearing, unless an open hearing is requested in writing by a parent or guardian of the student or by the employee against whom the complaint is brought.

Section 551.084 - For the purpose of excluding a witness or witnesses in an investigation from a hearing during examination of another witness in the investigation. Should any final action, final decision, or final vote be required in the opinion of the Board with regard to any matter considered in such closed or executive meeting or session, then such final action, final decision, or final vote shall be at either:

A. The open meeting covered by this Notice upon the reconvening of the public meeting, or

B. At a subsequent public meeting of the Board upon notice thereof, as the Board shall determine.

## **V. Reconvene in Open Meeting**

## **VI. Adjournment**

### **CERTIFICATE OF POSTING OR GIVING NOTICE**

On this **29th day of March 2024**, this Notice was posted at a place convenient to the public and readily accessible at all times to the general public at the following locations: (1) the HCC Administration Building of the Houston Community College, 3100 Main, First Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 and (2) the Houston Community College's website: [www.hccs.edu](http://www.hccs.edu).

Posted By:

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Sharon R. Wright  
Director, Board Services

# REPORT ITEM

**Meeting Date:** April 3, 2024

**Topics For Discussion and/or Action:**

ITEM #	ITEM TITLE	PRESENTER
A.	2024 National Legislative Summit & Related Policy Matters	Dr. Margaret Ford Fisher Remmele J. Young, J.D.

## DISCUSSION

Provide a report on the 2024 National Legislative Summit and related federal policy matters.

## COMPELLING REASON AND BACKGROUND

This report highlights the 2024 National Legislative Summit (NLS) and associated federal policy considerations. NLS is the principal community college advocacy opportunity in Washington, DC, bringing together more than 1,000 community college leaders.

As members of the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) and the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), Houston Community College (HCC) was an active participant in the 2024 NLS. The HCC delegation, comprised of trustees and administration representation, educated the Harris County congressional delegation, including our U.S. Senators, about the federal policy initiatives impacting postsecondary institutions and students.

In summary, this report appraises the HCC governing board about the NLS and shares key take-aways emerging from this important policy forum.

## FISCAL IMPACT

Under development.

## LEGAL REQUIREMENT

None.

## STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

*1. Student Success*

### ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Upload Date	Type
NLS Update_Feb03_2024	3/20/2024	Attachment

**This item is applicable to the following:**

Central, Coleman, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, Southwest, District, Online



# **External Relations Committee**

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**April 3, 2023**

**Dr. Margaret Ford Fisher, Chancellor**

**Remmele J. Young, J.D., Vice Chancellor**

# Topics

**2024 National  
Legislative  
Summit**



**Advancing America's  
Community Colleges**



**Capitol Hill  
Member Visits**



**Capitol Hill  
Member Visits**



**Key Take-Aways**



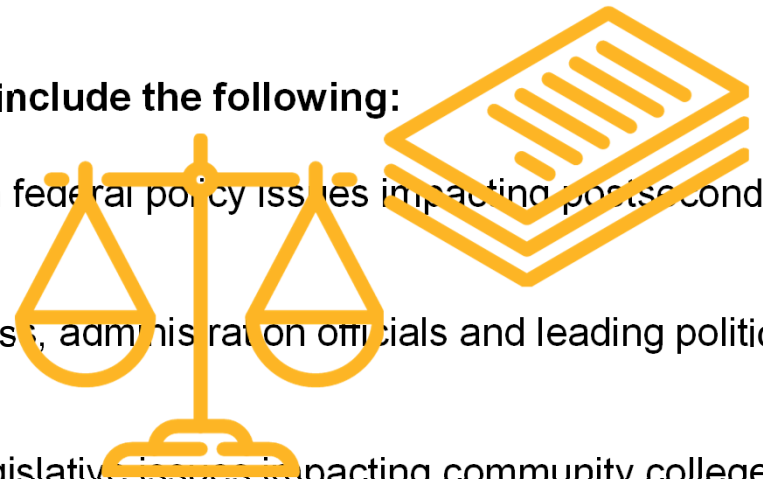
# 2024 National Legislative Summit



# 2024 National Legislative Summit

**NLS purpose and relevant opportunities it affords attendees include the following:**

- ▶ Designed to inform and educate community college leaders on federal policy issues impacting postsecondary institutions and students
- ▶ Allowed participants to hear from members of the U.S. Congress, administration officials and leading political analyst, and other high-profile speakers
- ▶ Discussions included recent elections, political climate, and legislative issues impacting community colleges
- ▶ Participants had opportunity to network with fellow community college leaders and met with their U.S. representatives in Congress
- ▶ Participants were positioned to advocate for support of community colleges and students



# Advancing American's Community Colleges

## Joint Legislative Agenda (118<sup>th</sup> Congress):

### Federal Pell Grants

- Restore and maintain Pell
- Extend Pell to high-quality, workforce short-term programs
- Increase lifetime Pell to 14 semesters (FTE)
- Safeguard program's future financial stability

### Financial Aid

- Increase funding to key financing programs like TRIO, GEAR UP, Federal Work-Study, childcare
- Increase funding for institutional programs (e.g., developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Asian Americans and Black institution programs)

### Higher Education Act\*

- Reauthorize Act, and support responsible borrowing
- Restore eligibility for students who lack a high school diploma
- Create federal-state partnership to make community college tuition free for all students

### Accountability

- Advance institutional accountability
- Create federal student record system
- Establish more accurate measures for counting graduation rates
- Ensure access to basic needs for students

\*Broadly authorizes federal student aid programs to assist students with postsecondary education cost.

# Advancing American's Community Colleges

## Joint Legislative Agenda (118<sup>th</sup> Congress) (Continued)

### Basic Needs

- Assist low-income students
- Improve access to programs providing housing, food, medical care, mental health
- Allow students to substitute work requirements for Supplemental Nutrition Assistant Program (SNAP)

### Workforce Development

- Increase Strengthening Community College Training Grants program funding
- Increase Carl D. Perkins Career Technical Education funding
- Improve Lifetime Learning Credit, covering 100% of first \$2k of tech education expenses

### Veterans

- Fund new and existing programs to help better serve needs
- Ensure active-duty personnel and dependents can fully participate in community college programs
- Reform programs to best suit the needs of veterans – no exploitation

### Tax Benefits

- End Pell taxation
- Alter eligibility requirement so that low-income students qualify for American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC)\*

\*AOTC is a credit (\$2,500) for qualified education expenses paid for an eligible student for the first four years.

# Capitol Hill Member Visits

# HCC Delegation Capitol Hill Visits



# HCC Congressional Delegation Visits 118th Congress



Congresswoman  
**Sheila Jackson**  
Lee CD 18



Congressman  
**Al Green**  
CD 9



Congresswoman  
**Sylvia Garcia**  
CD 29



Congresswoman  
**Lizzie Fletcher**  
CD 7



Congressman  
**Dan Crenshaw**  
CD 2



Senator  
**John Cornyn**



Senator  
**Ted Cruz**

**Note:** CD means Congressional District.



## Take-Aways

NLS key take-aways include the following:

- ▶ HCC delegation effectively met with and delivered policy messages to Harris County Congressional delegation and both U.S. Texas Senators
- ▶ Congressional delegation members were particularly receptive to Pell Grants
- ▶ Multiple members expressed support of “community projects”
- ▶ HCC’s focus on credentials of value notably align with ACCT’s message of cultivating skills for the future
- ▶ Workforce preparedness and apprenticeships were a major part of the overall message of the NLS
- ▶ Post congressional member visits, federal grant opportunities have emerged and are actively being pursued by HCC





# Thank You!