NYSFAAA Endorsement of NASFAA Policy Recommendation &

In  spring of 2021 NYSFAAA’s Government Relations Committee (GRC) surveyed the membership about Federal student aid policy recommendations that NASFAA has been advocating for in lieu of one-time “quick fix” student loan forgiveness proposals that have been swirling in Washington, DC. Your responses and feedback on this survey were clear, you strongly support NASFAA’s positions and believe that we should be advocating for longer-term, permanent, and more meaningful changes that will help improve access, completion, and repayment. The Executive Council heard you loud and clear and has voted to publicly endorse NASFAA’s policy positions.

NASFAA’s broad policy recommendations are spelled out in their November 2020 publication “[Investing In Our Future:](https://www.nasfaa.org/Investing_in_Our_Future)The Top 5 Student Aid Policies Needed to Sustain and Strengthen H igher Education”.

These 5 major policy initiatives are (details can be found via the link above):

1.    Deliver additional COVID-19 Relief to Students and Institutions

2.    Strengthen the Federal Pell Grant Program – Double the Maximum Pell Grant

3.    Simplify the Federal Financial Aid Application Process

4.    Curb Student Indebtedness and Simplify Repayment

5.    Enhance Student Aid Delivery

NYSFAAA stands in support of and fully endorses the common-sense student aid policy recommendations that NASFAA put forward in this “Investing In Our Future” position paper. We firmly believe that these policy recommendations, if enacted by Congress, would have a significant and meaningful impact in improving access and college completion outcomes for millions of low and moderate-income students.

In fact, NASFAA recently teamed up with a coalition of higher education associations, organizations, and advocacy groups who have formed the Double Pell Alliance and launched the [# DoublePell](https://doublepell.org/) site as a platform to push for doubling the maximum Pell Grant by the 50th anniversary of the creation of the program in June 2022. Hundreds of higher education groups, colleges, and universities have already signed on in support of this campaign and we urge you to join this #DoublePell movement as well.

Call To Action: On July 13th NASFAA shared the following tips on how aid offices and institutions can support the # DoublePell campaign:

·        “Send a message to all of your students, including those who are Pell Grant recipients, alerting them to this campaign and encouraging them to get involved. In particular, we ask that you encourage them to visit the website’s [Take Action](https://doublepell.org/take-action/) page to send a letter to their House and Senate members in support of doubling Pell and to speak out on social

media using #DoublePell. Encourage Pell recipients to share their stories, using the "[Tell U s Your Story"](https://doublepell.org/pell-voices/) button on the Pell Voices page, so they can be added to other student vignettes already posted. You can  use this document [Double\_Pell\_Customizable\_Letter.docx](undefined)  and customize the messaging if you wish.

·        Utilize the [fact sheets and other resources](https://doublepell.org/resources/)on the website for your own advocacy with members of your congressional delegation.

·        Use your institutional social media accounts to promote the campaign and detail why Congress should #DoublePell. Feel free to use any of the sample social media posts below or to write your own. You can also find shareable social media graphics for the campaign at the bottom of the [Take Action page](https://doublepell.org/take-action/).

·        Spread the word about this campaign to your broader campus community — in faculty newsletters, campus-wide emails, etc. — to increase awareness of the Pell Grant program and the need to double the maximum annual award.”

Please join this growing movement to significantly increase the purchasing power of Pell Grants as we emerge from the pandemic and work to provide real hope to millions of low-to- moderate-income students that a college degree is within their reach.

Thank you!

Adrienne R. King                                                Christopher E. Barto

NYSFAAA President                                        Chair, NYSFAAA Government Relations Committee