2023 ANNUALREPORT



CECU Career Education Colleges and Universities

About Career Education Colleges and Universities (CECU)

CECU is the national association representing private, postsecondary career schools. The association was established to foster policies ensuring equitable access to quality career education, enabling career colleges to grow and prosper, and helping the nation attain a more globally competitive workforce.

CECU advocates for policies that treat all institutions and students equitably. We support accountability standards based on student outcome metrics for all programs at all institutions in ways that protect both students and taxpayers. We advocate for increased transparency of outcomes so that prospective students and families can make fully informed decisions about their educational pursuits.

Dr. Jason Altmire leads CECU members on a private tour of the U.S. Capitol during Hill Day activities.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

As the national association representing private, postsecondary career schools, CECU is pleased to provide this annual report highlighting our work and accomplishments during the past year. As a membership-driven association, we value transparency and accountability. Members deserve to know where their dues go and how their money is spent. After reviewing this report, I am sure you will agree that CECU's growth, both in influence and as an organization, has been nothing short of phenomenal. The state of our association is strong.

For the third consecutive year, CECU experienced double-digit percentage growth in membership and revenue, allowing us to strengthen our advocacy efforts on behalf of the sector during some of the most challenging times in recent memory. We have also seen exponential growth in the distribution of our multimedia offerings, while increasing the number and variety of positive press mentions. CECU is the "go-to" source for media looking for comment on stories important to our sector, resulting in significant coverage of our statements in every major newspaper in the country and hundreds of local outlets.

In Washington, D.C., we have aggressively used all the tools available to us to promote the interests of our schools and students. We have established deep, bipartisan relationships on both sides of the Capitol, while also maintaining a positive working relationship with the Department of Education and other federal agencies. Even as we face an onslaught of partisan and ideologically driven proposals, we have had tangible and meaningful success. When policymakers are crafting legislation and regulations impacting higher education, CECU is at the table. It is no exaggeration to say that CECU truly is the voice of private, postsecondary career education.

We are grateful for our members and others in the sector who have come together to support CECU's work on their behalf. We proudly offer this annual report as a retrospective look at what has been accomplished as a result of that support, and to provide an assessment of where we stand as we look ahead. The next 12 months promise to be extraordinarily consequential. Thanks to the support of our members, CECU is well-positioned to continue to lead the charge in support of student choice, outcomes, and success.

I also want to thank the outstanding CECU team that works diligently every day on behalf of our members. The countless hours that went into the preparation of this report, and the work that it describes, are a testament to the commitment the CECU team has for our schools and students. You can be proud of the team that represents our sector and serves the interests of our members.

It is in that spirit that we offer this comprehensive annual report for your review. We look forward to the work ahead.

With appreciation,

Dr. Jason Altmire

YEAR AT A GLANCE

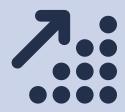


1,100+
campuses and affiliate members
across North America

More than

2,300 webinar registrants in the past year





Three consecutive years of double-digit percentage growth in membership and revenue



More than

3,000 media mentions of CECU in the past year

More than

6,500 downloads of CECU's podcast



600+

direct communications to CECU members in the past year



(o)

119



"Collegiate Admission and Retention Solutions (CARS) has been an active allied member for more than 20 years, relying upon CECU for timely information and advocacy on legislative and regulatory issues affecting higher education. The recent addition of the podcast has helped to bring vital issues to a wider audience than before. Perhaps one of the greatest recent accomplishments of the team is the admittance to the ACE secretariat."
-Elizabeth Herron, Vice President of Solutions and Sales, Collegiate Admission and Retention Solutions

FINANCIALS

Third Consecutive Year of Double-Digit Percentage Growth in Membership and Revenue

CECU takes seriously its responsibility to represent the sector before policymakers and the media. We also strive to be a vibrant and growing organization so that we may offer best-in-class benefits to our members. To effectively meet these goals, we must have the financial capability to support our efforts and continue to evolve. We are pleased to report that CECU has experienced three consecutive fiscal years of doubledigit percentage growth in membership and revenue.

	Year Ending 6/30/23	Year Ending 06/30/22	Year Ending 06/30/21
Revenue			
Total Contributions & Support	2,730,066	908,500	461,000
Earned Revenue			
Membership Revenue	3,463,243	3,293,427	2,992,167
Conference Revenue	1,218,034	1,102,175	666,821
Publication Revenue	102,264	71,028	20,513
Royalty Revenue	43,716	33,945	31,035
Other Income	6,622	18,528	2,402
Total Earned Revenue	4,833,879	4,519,104	3,712,938
Total Revenue	7,563,945	5,427,604	4,173,938
Expenses			
Total Personnel Expenses	2,063,179	2,154,230	1,911,172
Total Consulting Expenses	3,294,422	1,436,013	1,127,334
Total Programmatic Expenses	971,127	1,054,830	810,225
Total Non-Personnel Expenses	581,765	404,686	437,113
Total Expenses	6,910,493	5,049,759	4,285,844
Total Net Revenue	653,452	377,844	(111,906)

CECU'S MEMBERSHIP REACH

CECU membership continues to expand rapidly with both education and allied members. With a presence in 45 states, D.C., and Puerto Rico, CECU's education membership has reached nearly 800 U.S. members. Additionally, we have expanded our allied membership by 18 new members, for a total of 119. Through our alliance with Canada's National Association of Career Colleges, CECU's representation now spans across North America, encompassing more than 1,100 campuses and affiliate members.

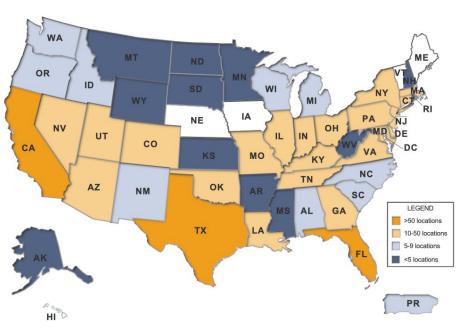
Our growth enables us to provide new and improved membership benefits. CECU's Daily News emails have been opened more than 460,000 times over the past year. Our Government Relations Updates

offer members in-depth analysis of crucial topics and breaking news. Over the past year, we provided approximately 150 Government Relations Updates that were accessed more than 240,000 times. These services provide our members with the most accurate, reliable, and timely information available anywhere.

CECU members elevate their careers through best-in-class professional development offerings. The 2023 North American Career Education Convention was a resounding success, featuring: 746 registered participants, all

99 exhibition spaces filled, 5 keynote sessions, 34 breakout sessions, and 17 roundtable discussions. In July, the acclaimed CECU Leadership Institute in Houston, TX brought together attendees from across the country for nearly two dozen curated sessions designed to guide attendees toward advancing their careers. Over the past year, more than 2,300 individuals registered for CECU webinars, with topics covering a diverse range of issues such as Borrower Defense to Repayment, Gainful Employment, changes in ownership and control, financial aid, compliance, 90/10 rule, and student success, just to name a few.

CECU's Membership in the United States



"As a partner in higher education, our team was instantly drawn to CECU's mission and actions.

MyDegree.com values the effort and dedication CECU puts into every student experience while promoting the growth of career education. The team at MyDegree is thrilled to be a new Allied member of CECU." -Bridget Granados, Dir. Business Development, MyDegree.com

"My journey with CECU began back in 2003 when I participated in the Leadership Institute. CECU has proven indispensable in fostering a robust professional network within our sector. The

organization's commitment to equipping its members with the latest insights has been invaluable in sustaining my expertise. I genuinely appreciate the invaluable services they consistently provide to our schools."

- Matt Calhoun, SVP of Regulatory Affairs, Arizona College

TRANSCENDING BORDERS: CECU'S **ALLIANCE WITH CANADA**



In October 2022, Jason Altmire joined his Canadian counterpart, Michael Sangster, in announcing a strategic alliance between the two organizations. CECU is the national association representing America's private, postsecondary career schools, while Canada's National Association of Career Colleges (NACC) represents private career colleges north of the border.

The strategic alliance is designed to increase the number and types of membership offerings available to members of both associations. In addition, both NACC and CECU members have explored business partnerships that will expand opportunities for students, while helping to streamline operations and programmatic synergies among schools. The results have exceeded expectations, as schools on both sides of the border have engaged in collaborative discussions and exploration of mutually beneficial business opportunities.

As associations, CECU and NACC have many complimentary programs, and some that are unique to their own memberships. As part of the new alliance, members of both associations now enjoy access to programming, events, and communications offered by either association at membership rates. For example, CECU members may now access NACC's webinars, information, and events at the same rates as NACC members themselves, often free of charge.

The presence of dozens of Canadian school leaders at the North American Career Education Convention in Kansas City added a new vibrancy to the event. The relationship building that occurred has opened the door for further cross-border collaboration and business development. We are excited about the alliance and look forward to strengthening our ties with our Canadian friends in the months and years ahead, all to the benefit of the students we serve.

In October of 2022. Jason Altmire visited with regulators and members of the Canadian Parliament during his visit to the NACC annual meeting in Ottawa. Here, he meets with The Honorable Rechie Valdez, a strong voice in the Canadian House of Commons in support of proprietary career schools.



"The alliance between **NACC and CECU** is an exciting development that will be of great benefit to schools on both

sides of the border. If the collaborative spirit that was present at the Convention in Kansas City is any indicator, there is much opportunity to learn from one another and grow our partnership in the years ahead." -George Hood, **Director of Government Relations. Herzing College System Canada**

"By aligning to support a common interest, we are capitalizing on economies of scale, embracing new ideas and increasing the benefits available to members. The real value of this partnership is the investment in professional development for the thousands of

instructors who deliver world-class training programs. We see a great deal of opportunity to grow together in the years ahead." -Michael Sangster, Chief Executive Officer, National **Association of Career Colleges**

"Once again, CECU has led the way with an innovative and forwardthinking partnership that will offer new opportunities for its members. Through the partnership, CECU members now have expanded access to information and professional

development offerings. Bravo CECU and NACC for coming together in benefit to career schools across North America!" -Bhavna Tailor, Executive Vice President-Operations, **Eastwick College**

CECU ON THE ROAD

The CECU team actively fosters engagement with members and students through school visits. As your association, we have a responsibility to see firsthand the incredible work our member schools do. These visits provide valuable insights and a deeper understanding of the challenges affecting our institutions. Moreover, direct interactions with students enable CECU to effectively relay their success stories to members of Congress and other policymakers in Washington, D.C.



Jason Altmire visits the Houston, TX campus of The College of Health Care **Professions**



Jason Altmire joins other dignitaries as WyoTech cuts the ribbon on their brand-new 90,000-square-foot building in Laramie, WY



Jason Altmire traveled to Kansas to visit Wichita Technical Institute on student appreciation day



Jessica Brown met with Lincoln Technical Institute students and instructors at the Union, NJ campus



Jason Altmire joined CCST **Executive Director Jerry Valdez** at the Escoffier School of Culinary Arts in Austin, TX



Jason Altimre with students from Sumner College in Portland, OR



CECU staff toured The Omega Studios' School of Applied Recording Arts & Sciences in Rockville, MD



Jason Altmire and Kelley Blanchard visited the Divers Institute of Technology in Seattle, WA



Mayor George Lantz, Dr. Basler, President of Platt College, and Dr. Altmire celebrate the grand opening of Platt College's new location in Greenwood Village, CO

ADVOCACY

Leading the Way: CECU's Advocacy and Policy Priorities

We take seriously our responsibility as the national voice of our sector. Our proactive approach ensures that the perspectives of our schools are heard within the White House, Department of Education, other executive agencies, and Congress. In 2023, we were actively engaged across a wide range of important issues.

Assisting Members with 90/10 Compliance

CECU has devoted substantial resources over the past year to educating members about the final 90/10 rule. This includes publishing a comprehensive summary of the final regulations and facilitating multiple informational webinars that garnered hundreds of attendees. At the 2023 North American Career Education Convention we offered three sessions and one roundtable focused on 90/10 compliance and related business opportunities.

We have also kept our foot on the gas in our advocacy on Capitol Hill. Since the 90/10 rule was finalized, there has been no reintroduction of legislative proposals or amendments aimed at reverting the rule back to 85/15. CECU continues to actively work with members of Congress to identify appropriate next steps to address the unlawfulness of the Department's misguided regulation.

CECU Engages Sector on Low-Financial Value List

When the Department announced its intent to publish a watch list of "low-financial-value postsecondary programs," CECU submitted a detailed letter providing thoughtful comments and insights regarding how the Department could identify low-financial-value postsecondary programs at all types of schools. CECU's position starkly contrasted with 30 other higher education associations. We will continue to work to ensure that any new accountability measures apply to all schools in all sectors of higher education.

Third-Party Servicer Guidance

Early in the spring, the Department updated its third-party servicer (TPS) guidance to describe when third-party entities that contract with higher education institutions are considered regulated entities known as "third-party servicers." Its more expansive definition of what constitutes a TPS was intended to allow the Department to collect more data on and provide greater oversight of the entities that work with institutions, including online program managers.

CECU collaborated with the American Council on Education (ACE) and other leading associations across higher education to forcefully respond in unified opposition to the proposal. On April 11, 2023, the Department announced it would delay the effective date of its guidance.

This is an example of the success of CECU's intentional strategy of working with other higher education associations to collectively achieve positive outcomes for schools and students.

Borrower Defense to Repayment

CECU's tireless efforts in opposition to the Borrower Defense to Repayment (BDR) rule included a 137page comment letter addressing each of the legal and regulatory deficiencies in the Department's proposed rule; four separate meetings with the White House/OIRA: numerous written submissions to leadership within the Department and U.S. Department of Justice, including the Solicitor General of the United States; and extensive outreach and coordination with members of Congress who share our concerns regarding the devastating impact the BDR rule will have on career education students and schools.

CECU published several resources to support members in preparing for the July 1, 2023, effective date, including:

- A 29-page analysis of the final rule
- Two sets of talking points
- A 2.5-hour interactive summary webinar

CECU Fights Against Proposed Changes to State Authorization Reciprocity

Twelve consumer advocacy groups submitted a proposal criticizing the existing State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA) process, urging NC-SARA to enhance consumer protections by enabling states to enforce stricter standards on proprietary schools.

CECU rebutted the organizations' proposed policy modifications, arguing that: (1) the proposals go against the foundational purpose of SARA; (2) the policies would reduce access to postsecondary opportunities, especially for people of color and low-income individuals; (3) for-profit institutions would be unnecessarily excluded from participation; and (4) the proposals are in conflict with state and federal workforce development policies.

The Gainful Employment Rule

When the Department released the 1,077-page Gainful Employment proposed rule on May 17, 2023, CECU published a preliminary summary and later a comprehensive 47-page analysis with recommendations for institutions, allied members, and affected stakeholders. CECU also engaged a wide range of institutions, associations, and employers, including the American Association of Cosmetology Schools and the Cleveland Clinic, to raise awareness about the Department's proposal and the potential impact, align messaging, and foster productive public comments.

Cosigned by all 15 active state associations representing our sector, CECU submitted an 87-page comment letter outlining the numerous substantial concerns while highlighting the illegality of the rule as written.

POWER PLAYERS

Jason Altmire — A former centrist Democratic Congressman, Altmire now leads Career Education Colleges and Universities, the main trade group representing for-profit colleges in Washington. The group is staunchly opposed to the rule and could sue to challenge any final policy.

James Kvaal — As the undersecretary of education, Kvaal is responsible for overseeing the development of higher education policy at the Education Department. A veteran of the Obama-era fights over "gainful employment," Kvaal has said reinstating the regulation is a top priority.

Congressional Progressive Caucus — Liberals in Congress have said that the "gainful employment" rule is among their top priorities for executive action from the Biden administration.

Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC) — The chair of the House education committee has led efforts to stop "gainful employment" in the past. She most recently called Biden's proposal a "witch hunt" against forprofit schools.

On September 1, 2023, Politico ran a comprehensive summary of the state of play on the Gainful Employment rule, including listing CECU's Jason Altmire as one of the four "Power Players" on the issue

Leading the Fight on Short-Term Pell Grants

During the previous session of Congress, Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA) made three separate attempts to include his short-term Pell Grant provision in bills advancing through the legislative process. Students were prohibited under Senator Kaine's bill from using the new Pell Grant funding at any proprietary school. Due in large part to CECU's vigorous opposition, the bills failed to advance and the debate continued in the 118th Congress.

Through CECU's advocacy, the expansion of short-term Pell has garnered bipartisan support in the House and Senate. CECU worked with 16 House Democrats who signed a public letter to House leadership asking that for-profit schools be included. This letter played a decisive role in turning the debate in our favor, and contributed to the introduction of a Democratic-led bill that includes proprietary schools.

POLITICO

House Democrats urge short-term Pell to include for-profit colleges April 17, 2023

Veteran Student Benefit Restoration Act

This new legislative proposal gives the Secretary of Veterans Affairs the discretion to require repayment of the value of benefits from any school found to have defrauded students. CECU raised concerns regarding the bill's lack of due process and the vague provisions pertaining to institutional liability for restored benefits. CECU remains steadfast in its advocacy efforts, engaging with the Committee and rank-and-file members of Congress to ensure the sector's apprehensions are effectively addressed before the bill undergoes further consideration.

CECU Supports Borrower Defense to Repayment Lawsuit

With the financial support of CECU's legal fund, Career Colleges & Schools of Texas (CCST) filed litigation in federal court arguing that the Department's new BDR rule, closed-school discharge, and pre-dispute arbitration regulations are unlawful and should be set aside on the

grounds they violate the U.S. Constitution and the Administrative Procedure Act.

On August 7, 2023, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit issued an order postponing the July 1, 2023, effective date of the BDR and closed school loan discharge regulations. Unlike the previous two stays issued by the appeals court, which applied only to educational institutions that are members of CCST, the August 7th decision broadened the injunction to apply to all higher education institutions nationwide.

CECU'S EFFORTS ON THE BORROWER DEFENSE TO REPAYMENT RULE

September 2021

CECU establishes a Litigation Steering Committee to oversee the execution of legal strategy and allocation of resources.

U.S. Department of Education selects CECU-Nominee as sector's primary negotiator for BDR rulemaking panel.

October to December 2021

CECU works hand-in-hand with primary negotiator to ensure sector's interests are adequately represented.

May 16, 2022

CECU sends a letter to OIRA Administrator discussing BDR rule and the threat it poses to career education schools.

May 27, 2022

12 members of Congress send a letter to Attorney General Merrick Garland regarding due | process concerns related to BDR rule.

June 6, 2022

CECU meets with OIRA and the Department to discuss concerns that the BDR rule violates the law and will cause irreparable harm to career education schools and students.

June 9, 2022

CECU publishes a member tool kit with talking points on the BDR rule, and assists members with scheduling individual OIRA meetings.

July 14, 2022

Career education schools successfully move to intervene in Sweet v. Cardona in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

July 15, 2022

CECU publishes a 22-page comprehensive legal and policy analysis of the July 13, 2022 NPRM, in which BDR rule is formally announced.

July 19, 2022

CECU hosts an informational webinar on NPRM and BDR rule.

July 22, 2022

CECU disseminates comprehensive guidance to members for purposes of forthcoming comments to July NPRM.

August 2022

CECU joins Republican Attorneys General Association.

August 1, 2022

CECU submits a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request seeking Department records relating to BDR rule and pending litigation in Sweet v. Cardona.

August 12, 2022

CECU submits a 137-page comment in response to July NPRM and Department's proposals for BDR, pre-dispute arbitration agreements, and closed school loan discharges.

Ranking Members Sen. Richard Burr and Rep. Virginia Foxx write Secretary Miguel Cardona expressing concern about the BDR rule's legal and regulatory deficiencies.

September 22, 2022

In its letter to Department leadership, CECU outlines additional reasons why the July 2022 NPRM is deficient and must be withdrawn.

CECU writes to DOJ leadership explaining that BDR rule raises substantial constitutional concerns and conflicts with positions the DOJ has taken in prior and pending cases.

October 5, 2022

13 members of Congress send a letter to OIRA indicating the July 2022 NPRM lacks legally required data and documentation and omits certain analyses.

October 13, 2022

CECU meets again with OIRA, this time to discuss additional legal and regulatory reasons why the July NPRM must be withdrawn.

October 31, 2022

CECU publishes an initial analysis of the unofficial 781-page final BDR rule.

CECU'S EFFORTS ON THE BORROWER DEFENSE TO REPAYMENT RULE

November 21, 2022

CECU releases extended analysis of the final BDR rule, including talking points for members to use to help financially support a legal challenge.

December 6, 2022

CECU hosts a 2.5-hour webinar covering major provisions of the final BDR regulations and advice for how to prepare for implementation.

February 28, 2023

Career Colleges & Schools of Texas (CCST) files a legal challenge against the final BDR rule in the Northern District of Texas.

March 17, 2023

The Department moves to dismiss CCST's case or, in the alternative, transfer the case to the District of Columbia or the Western District of Texas.

April 17, 2023

CCST's case is transferred to the Western District of Texas.

Court grants CCST's request for an expediated preliminary injunction hearing.

May 16, 2023

During a House hearing, Reps. Lisa McClain and Aaron Bean question Secretary Cardona about the Department's weaponization of the BDR program and its unresponsiveness to related FOIA requests.

May 18, 2023

Court denies motion by Public Citizen and Project on Predatory Student Lending to file a brief as amici curiae in CCST case.

May 24, 2023

House Ranking Members James Comer and Virginia Foxx write Secretary Cardona requesting documents and information to assist with their oversight of the approved Sweet v. Cardona settlement.

May 31, 2023

Court holds preliminary injunction hearing in CCST case and denies DOJ's motion to exclude CCST's expert witness.

June 14, 2023

Career Education Report releases a podcast discussing alarming aspects of the BDR regulations.

June 30, 2023

District Court denies CCST's motion for preliminary injunction.

Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals grants CCST's emergency motion for administrative injunction, limited to CCST and its member institutions.

July 1, 2023

BDR rule goes into effect for all Title IV higher education institutions except CCST member schools.

July 20, 2023

Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals extends June 30, 2023, administrative injunction through July 28, 2023.

July 25, 2023

District Court orders the Department to produce the administrative record by August 18, 2023.

July 28, 2023

Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals extends June 30, 2023, administrative stay indefinitely and orders expedited briefing and oral argument.

DOJ moves to dismiss CCST's claims against the BDR rule's closed school discharge provisions for lack of jurisdiction.

August 7, 2023

Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals grants CCST's emergency motion for injunction pending appeal, postponing July 1, 2023, effective date of the BDR and closed school loan discharge regulations for all higher education institutions until further notice, and orders oral arguments commencing November 6, 2023.

Political Action Committee

The CECU Political Action Committee is the only federal PAC devoted exclusively to supporting candidates who are allies of proprietary career education. CECU PAC raises funds from voluntary personal contributions from CECU members, then strategically disburses these funds to support candidates who understand the value of proprietary career schools.

CECU PAC makes a difference. In the 2022 election cycle, the PAC directly contributed to candidates and hosted campaign events that combined to raise more than \$600,000 in support of those who are fighting for our schools and students. In all, 39 of the 46 candidates CECU PAC supported — both Democrats and Republicans— won their elections and are now fighting for us in Congress.



39 of 46 CECU PAC-Supported Candidates Won Their Elections



Republicans Elected

Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS)

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL)

Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC)

Sen. Todd Young (R-IN)

Rep. Rick Allen (R-GA)

Rep. Jodey Arrington (R-TX)

Rep. Jim Banks (R-IN)

Rep. Mike Bost (R-IL)

Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK)

Rep. James Comer (R-KY)

Rep. Drew Ferguson (R-GA)

Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC)

Rep. Scott Fitzgerald (R-WI)

Rep. Bob Good (R-VA)

Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA)

Rep. Lisa McClain (R-MI)

Rep. Patrick McHenry (R-NC)

Rep. Miller-Meeks (R-IA)

Rep. Greg Murphy (R-NC)

Rep. Burgess Owens (R-UT)

Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY)

Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI)

Rep. Steve Womack (R-AR)

Representative-elect Aaron Bean (R-FL)

Representative-elect Tom Kean (R-NJ)

Representative-elect Laurel Lee (R-FL)



Rep. Alma Adams (D-NC)

Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-GA)

Rep. Troy Carter (D-LA)

Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-NY)

Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA)

Rep. Veronica Escobar (D-TX)

Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D-NY)

Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ)

Rep. Darren Soto (D-FL)

Rep. Greg Stanton (D-AZ)

Rep. Ritchie Torres (D-NY)

Representative-elect Jared Moskowitz (D-FL)

Attorney General-elect Anthony Brown (D-MD)

Lost Election

Rep. Al Lawson (D-FL)

Rep. Tom O'Halleran (D-AZ)

Rep. Kurt Schrader (D-OR)

Senate Candidate Mehmet Oz (R-PA)

Congressional Candidate April Becker (R-NV)

Congressional Candidate George Logan (R-CT)

Congressional Candidate Colin Schmitt (R-NY)

SHAPING HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY THROUGH CAPITOL EVENTS

As the sector's voice in Washington, CECU plays the leading role in advocating for our schools and students on legislative and regulatory matters. In addition to the ongoing work of CECU's lobbying team on Capitol Hill, CECU hosted two special events this year that each touched dozens of congressional offices and resulted in tangible, positive outcomes on key issues.

Hill Day 2023

Each spring, CECU holds its annual member fly-in to bring students and school leaders to Washington, D.C., to meet with their representatives on Capitol Hill. On March 7, CECU hosted its annual Hill Day briefing for member schools as part of a massive lobbying effort. More than 100 CECU members attended the issues conference, hearing from high-level speakers such as:

- Ted Mitchell, president of the American Council on Education
- Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC), chair of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce
- Rep. James Comer (R-KY), chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability

 Ben Miller, Deputy Under Secretary at the U.S. Department of Education

CECU worked with attending schools to arrange meetings with members of Congress and staff in their Capitol Hill offices. It was an amazing show of force, as CECU members fanned out across the Capitol complex to visit more than 200 congressional offices, in addition to a meeting with Under Secretary James Kvaal in his office at the Department of Education. The key topic at the meetings was to ask Congress to include all schools in the proposed short-term Pell Grant then being hotly debated in both the House and the Senate. As a direct result of these meetings, 16 Democratic House members sent a letter to House leadership advocating for CECU's position. In addition, the Secretary of Education, Miguel Cardona, subsequently expressed support for the inclusion of all schools in the short-term Pell Grant proposal. These outcomes show the powerful impact we can have when we come together as a sector to advocate for issues important to the students we serve.











Dr. Jason Altmire gives West Coast University students a private tour of the U.S. Capitol during Hill Day activities

Hill Day Meetings



Scott Casanover and West South College leadership with Coast University students with Senator Mike Braun (R-IN)





lan Avington, The College of Health Care Professions, Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett (D-TX), and Brad Kuykendall, Western Technical College



Jeremy and Bridget Teall, Paul Mitchell The School, with Congressman Andy Barr (R-KY)



Congressman Ken Calvert (R-CA)

Noah Brandon, Unitech Training Academy, and Delta College of Arts & Technology leadership with Congresswoman Julia Letlow (R-LA)



Jason Altmire, Rex Spaulding, New Castle School of Trades, and Congressman Mike Kelly (R-PA)



Congressman Scott Peters (D-CA), Lynelle Lynch, Bellus Academy, and Kelley Blanchard



Congresswoman Jenniffer González-Colón (PR), Ramon Negron, ICPR Junior College in San Juan. Puerto Rico



Dwight Utz, Central Penn College, Congressman Scott Perry (R-PA), Linda Fedrizzi-Williams and Michael Fedor, Central Penn College, Eric Gutshall an alumnus of Central Penn College

Capitol Briefing on Gainful Employment

On May 8, 2023, CECU hosted a briefing in the U.S. Capitol to discuss the many detrimental impacts of the proposed rule on Gainful Employment. The event was attended by more than two dozen congressional staff and media representatives, including leadership offices from the top education committees in both the House and the Senate, as well as CNN and higher education trade journalists. When the proposed rule was released shortly thereafter, several comments were submitted to the Department using unique data points and information CECU provided during the briefing. These included comments from members of Congress in opposition to the rule. In addition, many media outlets covering the release of the proposed rule used CECU's information and comments in their reporting.



Gainful Employment briefing panelists (left to right): Andrew Gillen, senior policy analyst at the Texas Public Policy Foundation; Preston Cooper, senior fellow at the Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity: and Jason Delisle, nonresident senior fellow in the Center on Education Data and Policy at the **Urban Institute**



CECU staff at the Capitol



"Over the years, our membership in CECU has not only provided many introductions and contacts that have led to rewarding career college and university partnerships but also has provided a wealth of

knowledge on the regulatory and political concerns of utmost importance to our clientele. As a company that primarily services the career education sector, we value CECU's advocacy for policies that benefit the sector's institutions and students." -David Neal, President/Owner, **Collegiate Housing Services**



"CECU provides professional and organizational support. As a long-standing member of CECU, I appreciate the value I continue to receive from the organization. I have found that CECU provides both resources

and relevant information that supports me professionally and my organization. I appreciate how CECU advocates for policies that support both our students and institutions." -Serjik Kesachekian, Chief **Compliance Officer, Success Education Colleges**

Bringing Policymakers to Our Schools

In addition to visiting members of Congress in Washington, CECU attends meetings with them at our campuses, where they are able to hear from students, administrators, and employers. These school visits have included some of the most influential members of Congress on our key issues. Here are a few examples from 2023:



Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA) visits Diesel Driving Academy in Shreveport, LA



Congressman Burgess Owens (R-UT) visits Pinnacle Career Institute in Kansas City, MO



Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) visits Lincoln Technical Institute in Lincoln, RI



Congressman Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ) visits Lincoln Technical Institute in Mahwah, NJ



Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) visits Lincoln Technical Institute in Allentown, PA

ANNUAL DAY OF SERVICE

At CECU, we believe in giving back to our communities. This year, we chose the Capital Area Food Bank in Washington, D.C. as the designated local charity for our annual Day of Service. We were joined by leaders from Canada's National Association of Career Colleges in volunteering to support the work of the Food Bank, which provides more than 50 million meals annually to residents of the D.C. area.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Leaders Convene at the 2022 CEO Summit

Last November, the CEO Summit saw its highest attendance since its inception, with over 130 career education leaders gathering in Phoenix, AZ. Among the Summit's highlights was a compelling address and question and answer session from James Kvaal, the U.S. Under Secretary of Education.

Throughout the Summit, sector and industry experts delved into a diverse array of topics crucial to the sector. CNN's Senior Political and Election Analyst. Ron Brownstein, delivered a timely midterm election update. Congressman Tom O'Halleran (D-AZ) joined the attendees for breakfast and shared insights on the vital role of career colleges. Other engaging discussions covered areas such as nonprofit and proprietary partnerships, Title IX regulations, and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's higher education efforts.

2023 Regulatory, Compliance, and Human **Resources Workshop**

With so much regulatory activity affecting schools in our sector, CECU hosted an in-person session to allow compliance, regulatory, and human resources leaders from schools across the country to come together in a closed-door setting. With more than 70 registrants for the private meeting in Kansas City. attendees were able to compare notes and discuss best practices in a confidential meeting facilitated by legal experts.

In the coming year, CECU plans to host more of these special events tailored to the needs of school leaders. These events will be a way for sector schools to convene privately to allow education and management professionals to share ideas and information in a confidential setting.



James Kvaal



Ron Brownstein



Brooke Tabshouri of Duane Morris examines employment law during the Regulatory, Compliance, and Human Resources Workshop

THE 2023 NORTH AMERICAN CAREER EDUCATION CONVENTION

In June, hundreds of professionals from career schools and related organizations gathered in Kansas City, MO for the much-anticipated 2023 North American Career Education Convention. Jointly hosted by CECU and Canada's NACC, the event highlighted opportunities for cross-border collaboration and marked a significant moment for the career education sector. Robert Herjavec, best known for his role on ABC's Shark Tank, delivered a memorable closing keynote that resonated with attendees through his inspiring insights and expertise.

The numbers speak for themselves: 746 registrants, 99 exhibition spaces filled, 5 keynote sessions, 34 breakout sessions, and 17 roundtable discussions.

The highly anticipated breakout sessions featured topics of great importance to the sector. Among the notable sessions:

- Enhancing the Student Journey: Using ChatGPT and AI for Attracting and Engaging
- 2023 Title IV Audit Guide: Balancing Audit Burden and Federal Stewardship Responsibilities, presented by officials from the U.S. Department of Education

- Gainful Employment Eligibility Tests: **Projecting Compliance**
- Transformation: A Model for Institutional
- The Other Shoe: Analyzing the New Proposed Regulations that Just Dropped
- Embedding Inclusion into College Operations: **Quick Wins and Long Range Strategies**
- 90/10 Key Changes: Where We Are Today
- From Floundering to Effective Teams, an Actionable "How-to" Model That Unites Departments, Breaks Down Silos, and Focuses on Results
- Personal and Owner Liability What You Need to Know

This year's Convention provided participants with several off-site events, including a golf outing, a tour of the Super Bowl champion Chiefs' home stadium, and various sponsored events throughout the local Kansas City hotspots.

Continuing the tradition of partnership with the local community, our partners at Elsevier sponsored a Convention-wide service activity onsite. Convention attendees joined the staff from a local Kansas City charity, Operation Breakthrough, to prepare more than 1,700 snack bags for underprivileged children.







"I had the most incredible time as a sponsor and speaker at the conference in Kansas City! The event showcased the powerful bond between Canadian and American educators, fostering an enriching exchange of ideas and collaboration. It was truly a testament to the strength of the CECU and NACC partnership, and I am grateful to have been a part of such a remarkable experience." -Craig Tucker, President Keyin College



THE 2023 NORTH AMERICAN CAREER EDUCATION CONVENTION



Kansas City Chiefs Rumble drumline



Opportunities for Cross-Border Collaboration Among U.S. and Canadian Schools panel



"At Orbund, we always look forward to the CECU conventions because they are part of the premier events in the higher education sector. We get the opportunity to meet and interact with our customers and prospects. They tend to be the sector's go-to events to learn new market trends and solutions." -Alexander Arthur, Chief Operations Officer, **Orbund**



Noah Brandon and Unitech Training Team at the Chiefs' stadium

LeadSquared's caricature artist in the exhibit hall

"Every detail of the CECU conference was intentional this vear. The tour of Arrowhead stadium, the after-hours networking events, and getting to know the members of NACC were all complimentary to forming a great experience. Further, the sessions reaffirmed the sector's unity through information sharing on new regulations, governmental updates, and best practices." -Noah Brandon, MBA, Chief Executive Officer, Unitech Training Academy



Attendees prepared more than 1,700 snack bags for Operation Breakthrough



Alexander Arthur of Orbund at their booth





Congressman Burgess Owens (R-UT)

"I found the convention program to be highly relevant and contemporary in nature, hitting all of the big ticket items facing career colleges and higher education today. Overall, a great sense of community was developed quickly, which enabled networking and powerful conversations at the planned social hours. This event was top notch!" -Jordan Utley, PhD, ATC, FNAP, Corporate Education Director, Pima

Medical Institute



CECU's Leadership Institute: Empowering the Next Generation of Leaders

across the sector come together for a week-long professional development opportunity at CECU's Leadership Institute. Designed as an immersive series of courses covering every aspect of school management and operations, the Leadership Institute gives the sector's rising stars a chance to network with other leaders and education development offerings to their employees. professionals while honing their own skills and expertise.

In 2023, the Leadership Institute was hosted at the Pima Medical Institute campus in Houston, TX. More than two dozen attendees came together, representing a diverse array of schools and programs. Expert speakers included topics such as:

- The role of proprietary schools in higher education
- Admissions best practices
- Regulatory compliance
- Team building and management
- Campus growth
- Student services
- Community engagement
- Public policy issues
- Relationships with government officials

As part of the jam-packed agenda, attendees learned from one another and were able to tour Pima Medical Institute's state-of-the-art campus. They heard from State Representative Penny Morales Shaw (D-TX), who discussed the importance of political engagement and the benefit our sector provides to communities. Evening social events allowed time for fun and networking in a relaxed setting.

Each July, mid-level managers from schools. The Leadership Institute has become one of CECU's most popular professional development offerings. In the year ahead, we plan to grow the visibility of the program and continue to make it available to rising leaders throughout our sector. We highly recommend schools consider this valuable program as an extension of their own professional



Attendees Vincent Brooks from Education Affiliates and Neldon Brown from Pima Medical Institute



State Representative Penny Morales Shaw (D-TX) with Pima Medical Institute Students



Speaker Jenn Christensen, **Director of Admissions** Training and Development, Herzing University



Nicole Ilisie from Tidewater Tech and Samantha Rourke from StrataTech Education Group

"The Institute is a great week of learning for those who are new to their leadership role or looking to learn



more about our sector and how we serve students in our communities.

It is an excellent opportunity to share ideas and best practices with others who share a common goal: changing lives!" -Angela Heinz, VP of Growth & Development, San Joaquin Valley College, Inc./Ember Education

"CECU Leadership Institute was a great opportunity for me to not only learn about many different colleges and schools in the sector, but also partake in very poignant sessions that aligned greatly with my trajectory as a leader." -Robert Walker, Director of Admissions,

University of Advancing

Technology

"I truly learned so much. The topics were on point with the audience and the speakers were energetic and



kept my interest. I am so glad I was fortunate enough to attend and I am certain that I will be able to utilize what I have learned in my current and future leadership endeavors!" -Kimberly Peacher, Dental Hygiene Program Director, Pima Medical Institute

COMMUNICATIONS

Driving the Discussion in the Media

CECU's aggressive media relations strategy has paid off. Over the past year alone, CECU garnered more than 3,000 media mentions. CECU is driving the discussion and providing valuable insights on issues vital to our schools. Our consistent media presence ensures that our concerns receive the attention they deserve, fostering a more informed and well-rounded conversation.

Over the past year, CECU was cited nearly 1,000 times in national and local media outlets covering our views on the Borrower Defense to Repayment rule

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

New Biden Rule Speeds Up Student-Loan Forgiveness for Defrauded Borrowers - October 31, 2022

"The Department has cut corners in a rush to ram through a punitive borrower defense rule with serious legal and regulatory flaws that could undermine the American education system," said Jason Altmire, head of Career Education Colleges and Universities, a for-profit school industry group.

The Washington Post

Appeals court halts new Biden rules on debt relief for defrauded students - August 7, 2023

"We are confident that when the case is brought forward the facts will show the new rule to be an agency overreach in violation of the Department's authority, the Administrative Procedure Act, and the Constitution," said Jason Altmire, chief executive officer of Career Education Colleges and Universities, which represents for-profit colleges. "Knowing that this rule has a strong chance to be struck down during the upcoming legal process, it is unjustifiable to allow its implementation while the court proceedings continue."



Biden's student debt forgiveness for defrauded borrowers blocked by conservative court - August 7, 2023

"Imposing these ... provisions would have been detrimental to career schools in Texas and across the country," said Jason Altmire, the president and CEO of Career Education Colleges and Universities, in a statement. "We are confident

that when the case is brought forward the facts will show the new rule to be an agency overreach."

Over the past year, CECU was cited more than 1,000 times in national and local media outlets related to Gainful Employment



New rule seeks to weed out college programs that leave grads with low income, high debt - May 17, 2023

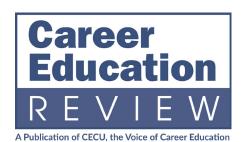
"The rule unfairly targets programs at proprietary institutions and fails to account for the unique challenges facing students and communities that career-oriented programs serve," said Jason Altmire, president and CEO of CECU, an industry trade group.

Biden administration proposes new rule to prevent students from incurring crippling debt at for-profit colleges – May 17, 2023

Career Education Colleges and Universities, a trade group that represents for-profit colleges, criticized the proposed rule for excluding the majority of programs at nonprofit colleges. "The rule unfairly targets programs at proprietary institutions and fails to account for the unique challenges facing students and communities that career-oriented programs serve," CECU's president and CEO Jason Altmire said in a statement.

Multimedia

Over the past two years, CECU has made significant investments in upgrading our multimedia capabilities. We have established a podcast and updated the design of the 98-year-old Career Education Review magazine. Both the magazine and the podcast experienced dramatic growth in the past 12 months, with both exceeding projected engagement rates by wide margins.



Career Education Review Magazine

First established in 1926. Career Education Review (CER) has for most of its existence been a niche publication focused on issues of importance to the career education sector. In 2021, CECU acquired Career Education Review and began an extensive revamp of the style, format, content, and distribution of the magazine. Now a quarterly publication distributed both online and in magazine format, CER has experienced a resurgence as measured both in circulation and paid advertising. The increase in revenue related to sponsorship and advertising has allowed CECU to provide complimentary public access, rather than through a paid subscription. CER's fourth issue of 2022, which recognized innovative leaders throughout the sector, has been viewed online more than 2.000 times. The Spring 2023 issue was dedicated to coverage of the nationwide shortage of health care workers and has likewise generated great interest among key policymakers across Capitol Hill. With the magazine turning a profit and seeing increased circulation, we will continue to improve its offerings and raise its visibility as a "go-to" resource for policymakers and education leaders.







Podcast

Distributed on Apple, Spotify, Amazon, iHeart, and other leading podcast platforms, the Career Education Report podcast has grown rapidly and been downloaded more than 6,500 times since its inception in 2022. A diverse array of highprofile guests has drawn interest from all corners of higher education, including policymakers, think tank researchers, foundations, grantmakers, and academic leaders. Like the CER magazine, the rapid growth in audience engagement is another avenue for revenue generation and visibility for the sector's policy priorities.



ALLIANCE FOR CAREER EDUCATION IN THE STATES (ACES)

Established in 2022 as a subsidiary of CECU, the Alliance for Career Education in the States (ACES) currently comprises six affiliated states engaged in collaborative partnership. ACES is dedicated to supporting state associations through activities such as communication, event planning, government relations, and association management. The primary objective is to optimize resource sharing, amplifying advantages and professional development resources accessible to members across each state. In addition, ACES offers tailored assistance to meet the distinct requirements of each individual association.

Georgia

During the 2023 legislative session, the Georgia Alliance for Career Education (GACE) was actively engaged on policy issues impacting member schools in Georgia. Leaders from member schools attended a lobbying day at the State Capitol in Atlanta, meeting with Governor Brian Kemp (R), as well as the chairmen of the House and Senate committees of jurisdiction over higher education. Additionally, GACE members met throughout the year with legislative leaders and state regulators, such as the Technical College System of Georgia. GACE is well positioned to play a key role in discussions about workforce development and higher education policy in Georgia. GACE is a direct subsidiary of CECU.



Nevada

The Nevada Association of Career Colleges (NACC), also a subsidiary of CECU, was active on a number of fronts during the state's 2023 legislative session.

NACC worked with legislators and regulators to advocate for a successful amendment to a bill that modified state licensure requirements and changed the way student instructional hours are counted. NACC's recommended amendment was adopted and the bill was passed by the legislature and signed into law by the governor on June 1.

Also during the 2023 legislative session, NACC vice chair, Marylin Lim-Carreon from Unitek College, testified before the state legislature in support of Nevada's entry into the National Nurse Licensure Compact. This would help NACC schools attract and retain qualified nursing instructors, while expanding the pipeline to high-demand jobs in nursing and the health professions in Nevada.

New Jersey

In 2022, ACES entered into a management agreement with the Private College and School Association of New Jersey (PCSANJ), helping to plan events, expand membership, and support advocacy priorities. ACES helped the association organize successful annual meetings in the fall of 2022 and 2023, as well as an additional professional development session in May 2023 that attracted more than 70 campus leaders from around the state.

With the support of ACES, New Jersey career schools were able to positively influence the implementation of a new state Gainful Employment regulation.

Colorado and Louisiana

ACES has also finalized management agreements with the state associations in Colorado and Louisiana, both of which will result in streamlined communications to members and additional support in event planning and state-level advocacy.

Florida

In 2022 and 2023, ACES assisted the Florida Association of Postsecondary Schools and Colleges (FAPSC) with member communications through targeted, daily news summaries.

CECU RESEARCH FOUNDATION

The CECU Research Foundation supports credible research on the impact of career education by raising funds from interested parties and identifying established research partners to carry out studies and other projects related to the Foundation's mission.

Through the Foundation, CECU funded two high-quality research reports that explored how and to what extent the Gainful Employment rule would impact postsecondary institutions regardless of tax status. Additionally, the studies explored the Biden administration's discriminatory approach of targeting accountability standards predominantly at proprietary institutions.

Both reports have positively contributed to the national debate on Gainful Employment and higher education accountability more broadly. For example, the Biden administration's proposed Gainful Employment rule created a transparency framework that, for the first time, would apply to all programs at all higher education institutions. The research commissioned is helping to move the Department closer to a more fair and equitable higher education accountability system.

AWARDS

This year, CECU recognized individuals who play a pivotal role in shaping the future career education.



2023 CECU Leadership Award

Marilyn Lim-Carreon, the Unitek College campus director in Reno, received the 2023 CECU Leadership Award. As the vice chair of the Nevada Association for Career Colleges (NACC), Marilyn advocates for the entire state of Nevada on behalf of every private, postsecondary school.

2023 CECU Service Award

Yasith Weerasuriya, President and CEO of Stanbridge University in Southern California, received the Commitment to Service Award. Stanbridge University distributed 1.4 million pounds of groceries, raised \$200,000 to support the homeless, cleaned up 16,000 pounds of trash, offered 57,000 warm meals, and extended 2,546 free medical services to animals.



CHEP Certification

CHEP certification programs maximize employee and organization performance at career education institutions. CECU awards the Committed to Excellence Awards to institutions that have embraced the CHEP certification in six areas of specialization for the completion of approved training through MaxKnowledge and a network of partner associations.

This year, CECU honored three institutions that have adopted the CHEP certification to maximize employee and organizational performance.

CECU and MaxKnowledge would like to congratulate:

- Education Evolve and their selected CHEP Champion, Tammy
- IntelliTec College and their selected CHEP Champion, Dr. Mindy
- StrataTech Education Group and their selected CHEP Champion, **Garrett Ellis**



Taft of Education Evolve

REPRESENTING THE SECTOR

Last year, CECU was accepted into the influential Washington Higher Education Secretariat, a coalition of national higher education association leaders who collectively work to consider and respond to issues confronting postsecondary education. Through regular meetings and working groups, CECU has intentionally focused on developing new and strengthening existing relationships within this network.

As the national voice of our sector, CECU frequently represents our schools at conferences and meetings across the country. Some examples of events CECU attended over the past year include:

- Connect 2022
- National Democracy Summit
- Task Force Movement for Trucking
- Paul Mitchell Owners Summit and Gala
- Beauty Changes Lives Change-Makers' Gala
- Financial Aid Services I Genesis-SMSS Seminar
- Career Colleges & Schools of Texas Conference (CCST)
- Success Education Colleges 2022 Professional Development Conference
- Professional Associations for Customer Engagement (PACE) Conference and Washington Summit
- American Enterprise Institute (AEI) Higher Education Workshop and Strategy Group
- Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools Conference (ABHES)
- Salon Professional Education Company Franchise Conference (SPEC)
- National Association of Career Colleges (NACC)
 Conference Canada
- Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA)
 Annual Conference
- Stand Together Postsecondary Education Policy Working Group
- Private College and School Association of New Jersey (PCSANJ) Conference
- California Association of Private Postsecondary Schools (CAPPS) Conference
- Accrediting Council for Continuing Education & Training (ACCET) Conference
- American Legion National Higher Education & Credentialing Summit
- Florida Association of Postsecondary Schools and Colleges (FAPSC) Conference



Jason Altmire speaks at the Success Education Colleges 2022 Professional Development Conference



president Jill Krahn in discussing federal policy issues at the annual SPEC franchise conference in Orlando



REPRESENTING THE SECTOR

- **Distance Education Accrediting Commission** Conference (DEAC)
- National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) Annual Conference
- Florida Association of Postsecondary Schools and Colleges (FAPSC) Legislative Conference
- American Enterprise Institute (AEI) and Urban Institute Income-Driven Repayment Private Conference
- National Association of State Administrators and Supervisors of Private Schools (NASASPS) Annual Conference
- U.S. Department of Education IPEDS Technical **Review Panel on Nondegree Credentials**
- U.S. Department of Education Technical Review Panel on the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study
- Defense of Freedom Institute for Policy Studies and The Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies Education Law & Policy Conference





At the PACE Conference in Nashville, Jason Altmire joined a panel with former Congressman Jack Kingston and Tennessee State Senator Heidi Campbell to discuss how to most effectively navigate the complex regulatory and compliance environment



Jason Altmire with Leah Matthews at the DEAC Annual Conference in Sante Fe, NM



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Find more upcoming events at www.career.org/events

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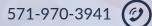














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