

Resolution ABTS: 07.16.01

*Resolution Supporting the Restoration of Year-Round Federal Pell Grants*

Sponsors: Rutgers University, University of Iowa, University of Maryland

**WHEREAS**, a Federal Pell Grant is money from the U.S. Department of Education that is intended to help low-income students afford college, and

**WHEREAS**, Pell Grants are distributed based on financial need and do not need to be repaid, and

**WHEREAS**, 8.2 million undergraduate students received a Pell Grant in 2014-2015, and<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, previously Congress allocated funding for year-round Pell Grants, but ended the program in 2011, and

**WHEREAS**, the maximum award for a Pell Grant is \$5,815 for the 2016-2017 year, and

**WHEREAS**, the maximum award for a Pell Grant will automatically increase to \$5,915 for the 2017-2018 school year, and

**WHEREAS**, the Pell Grant program this year will cost \$22 billion and its surplus this year is projected to be \$7.8 billion, and<sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS**, this surplus is the result of slight enrollment declines nationally, tightened eligibility requirements, and improving family finances following the recession, and

**WHEREAS**, the White House has recommended a return to year-round Pell Grants, and<sup>3</sup>

**WHEREAS**, on June 7, 2016 the U.S. Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations subcommittee approved Bill S1062 that would restore year-round Pell Grants with bipartisan support, and<sup>4</sup>

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1

<https://trends.collegeboard.org/student-aid/figures-tables/pell-grants-total-expenditures-maximum-and-average-grant-and-number-recipients-over-time>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.wsj.com/articles/pell-grant-program-projected-to-see-7-8-billion-surplus-next-year-1464908583>

3

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2016/01/19/white-house-plan-restore-year-round-pell-grants-and-create-new-bonus>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2016/06/08/senate-panel-backs-year-round-pell-grants-and-boost-nih-funding>

**WHEREAS**, on July 6, 2016 the U.S. House Appropriations Committee released a bill that would prevent the restoration of year-round Pell Grants, and<sup>5</sup>

**WHEREAS**, a return to year-round Pell Grants should provide about 1 million students with enough funds to take summer classes, and<sup>6</sup>

**WHEREAS**, studies have demonstrated that government grants have a positive impact on the graduation rates of low-income students, and<sup>7</sup>

**WHEREAS**, restoring summer Pell Grants can help increase four-year graduation rates and will promote the chances of success for low-income students across the Big Ten, and

**WHEREAS**, the Association of Big Ten Students has a responsibility to consider proposals that work to benefit all of the students who attend Big Ten Universities, and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Association of Big Ten Students supports the restored funding of year-round Pell Grants.

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Association of Big Ten Students will lobby all respective federal officials and entities to encourage the support of year-round Pell Grants.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2016/07/07/us-house-bill-would-nix-year-round-pell-grants>

<sup>6</sup>

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2016/06/08/senate-panel-backs-year-round-pell-grants-and-boost-nih-funding>

<sup>7</sup>

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2014/04/04/study-shows-positive-impacts-government-aid-graduation-rates>