July 22, 2015

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch  The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chairman  Ranking Member
Committee on Finance  Committee on Finance
United States Senate  United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510  Washington, DC 20510

RE: Extension of Expired Higher Education Tax Incentives

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

On behalf of the American Council on Education and the higher education associations listed below, I write to thank you for including two year extensions of the above-the-line deduction for qualified tuition and related expenses (tuition deduction) and the Individual Retirement Account (IRA) Charitable Rollover in the tax extenders bill marked up in the Finance Committee yesterday.

The two year extension of the tuition deduction restores a valuable benefit to students and their families, providing another tool to help reduce the cost of college. This step is particularly helpful to graduate students who are not eligible for the American Opportunity Tax Credit. In addition, the two year extension of the IRA Charitable Rollover provides colleges and universities with some predictability and a longer window of time to use this worthwhile charitable giving incentive to raise new or increased contributions at a time when private giving has becoming increasingly important to helping maintain access to higher education and supporting our missions of teaching, research, and public service.

Thank you again for including two year extensions of these important tax provisions in the extenders bill. We look forward to working with you to help ensure its enactment as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Terry W. Hartle
Senior Vice President

TWH/ldw
On behalf of:
American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Council on Education
Association of American Universities
Association of Community College Trustees
Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
College and University Professional Association for Human Resources
Council for Advancement and Support of Education
Council for Opportunity in Education
Council of Graduate Schools
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
National Association of Colleges and University Business Officers
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities