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## NCHE E Letter

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**October 2007**

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### College Cost Reduction Act

H.R. 2669, the College Cost Reduction Act of 2007, was signed into law by the President on September 27. Impacts include

- increase in the maximum Pell Grant
- reduced interest rates on subsidized student loans
- increased aggregate limits on federally insured loans
- loan forgiveness for those employed in areas of national need
- tuition assistance grants for those going into teaching

Two sources of additional information are: <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h110-2669>  
<http://edlabor.house.gov/publications/061207CCRAOnePager.pdf>

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### Part-Time Student Graduation Rates

Part-time students enrolled at four-year and public two-year institutions are much less likely to leave without a degree than full-time students according to the report "Persistence and Attainment of 2003-04 Beginning Postsecondary Students: After Three Years." Check out the full report at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2007/2007169.pdf>

## Academic Freedom

When Columbia University invited Iran's President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, to speak, reaction varied widely. One reaction, from U.S. Rep. Duncan Hunter, was legislation introduced that would "prohibit federal grants to or contracts with Columbia University". Is academic freedom for students and faculty to listen to and question controversial figures being attacked? Is this an example of dangerous isolationism for America? <http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2007/09/28/hunter>

## Global Measure of Student Learning

Should we consider a global measure of student learning outcomes at the college level? The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has brought together "a small group of testing experts and higher education policy makers who have met quietly to discuss the possibility of creating a common international system to measure the learning outcomes of individual colleges and university systems". More information is available at <http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2007/09/19/international>

## 2008 Higher Education Conference

The 2008 Higher Education Conference, a joint NEA / AFT conference, will be held at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C., March 28-30, with pre-conference events March 26-28. This year's theme is *Building Alliances for Higher Education and the Public Good*.

<http://www2.nea.org/he/conf.html>

## 2008 Regional Leadership Conferences

Mid-Atlantic	Kentucky	January 25-27
Midwest	Minnesota	January 18-20
Northeast	New York	January 18-20
Pacific	Idaho	February 15-17
Southeast	South Carolina	February 1-3

West

Texas

January 18-20

Details are available on the NEA website at: <http://www.nea.org/members/rlc.html>

## 2008 Dates to Remember and Tentative Deadlines

- January 15 - NCHE Constitution & Bylaws Amendments Due
- January 18 - Davenport Award Nominations Due
- March 27 - NEA Conference Leadership Day
- March 28-30 - NEA/AFT HE Conference
- March 28 - NCHE Elections and NEA Candidate Endorsements

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