



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS HIGHLIGHTS

COUNCIL FOR CHRISTIAN COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES



WHO WE ARE

The Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCUC) is a higher education association representing over 180 institutions around the world, including 140 in the United States. Our institutions enroll approximately 605,000 students annually, with over 10 million alumni. CCCUC institutions are accredited, comprehensive colleges and universities whose missions are Christ-centered and rooted in the historic Christian faith. The CCCUC's mission is to advance the cause of Christian higher education and to help our institutions transform lives by faithfully relating scholarship and service to biblical truth. As the leading national voice for Christian higher education, we provide a unified platform to highlight the contributions of our institutions, and of our students, to the common good.



10 million+ alumni



180+ colleges and universities

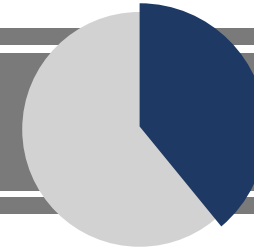


95,000 staff and faculty employed globally

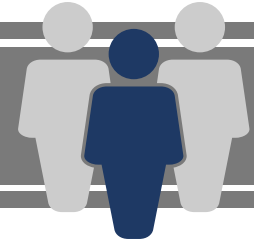


605,000 students enrolled globally

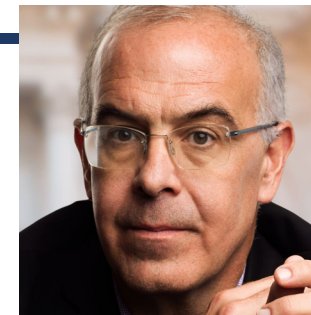
OUR STUDENTS



38%
FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS*



1 IN 3
CCCUC STUDENTS ARE PELL GRANT RECIPIENTS**



"You [Christian colleges] have what everybody else is desperate to have: a way of talking about and educating the human person in a way that integrates faith, emotion, and intellect. You have a recipe to nurture human beings who have a devoted heart, a courageous mind, and a purposeful soul. Almost no other set of institutions in American society has that, and everyone wants it."

— David Brooks

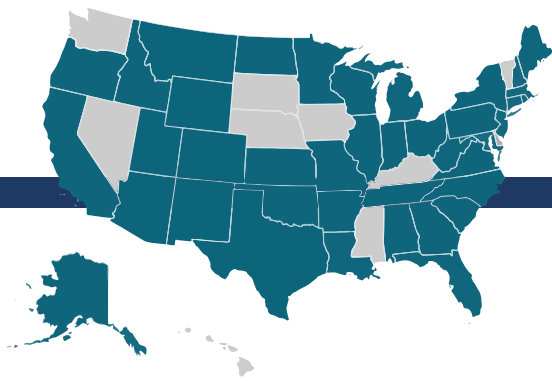
*Source: National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), "NSSE 2023 Consortium Coordinator Report: Council for Christian Colleges & Universities"

**Source: <https://www.cccu.org/magazine/cultural-value-christian-higher-education/>



VALUE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher education focuses on the holistic and transformative development of individuals, going beyond specialized job training. A college education equips students with critical thinking, communication, and problem-solving skills applicable across various professions, fostering adaptable and well-informed citizens who contribute to a vibrant democracy. While job readiness is crucial, a narrow focus on immediate employment overlooks the long-term benefits of a liberal arts education. Higher education graduates, with their interdisciplinary background, are well-positioned to contribute fresh ideas and perspectives, which is vital for addressing complex challenges. We ask Congress to consider the wide-ranging benefits of higher education in addition to the financial benefits. **Please resist legislation and push back on regulations that see higher education primarily through an economic lens.**

Institutions of higher education are among the largest employers in many states



States where at least one college or university was among the top 10 employers in 2019

-  Among the top 10
-  Not among the top 10

<https://www.nacubo.org/-/media/Documents/Advocacy/State-of-Higher-Ed/2023/MoreIsPossible2023NACUBO>

BACHELOR'S DEGREE HOLDERS MAKE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THEIR COMMUNITIES THROUGH INCREASED LOCAL INVOLVEMENT, MORE TAX REVENUE AND HIGHER CHARITABLE GIVING.

Average lifetime contributions of bachelor's degree holders compared to average wage earners with only a high school diploma.



\$278,000
More to their local economy



\$44,000
More in state and local taxes



\$771
More in annual charitable giving

Bachelor's degree holders are less likely to have been diagnosed with a chronic medical condition and they rate their health better. These relationships between a person's health and education level persist even when considering the person's age.



Those with more education are less likely to say they have a condition that prevents them from doing normal daily activities, and to have been diagnosed with a chronic medical condition such as asthma, high blood pressure or diabetes.

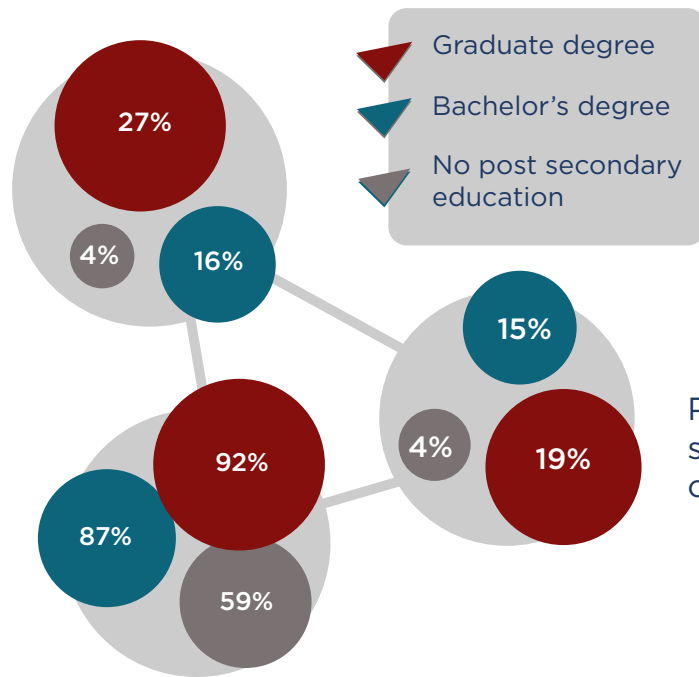
<https://www.gallup.com/analytics/468986/state-of-higher-education.aspx>

CONSISTENT RESEARCH HAS HIGHLIGHTED LONELINESS PROBLEMS AMONG ADULTS

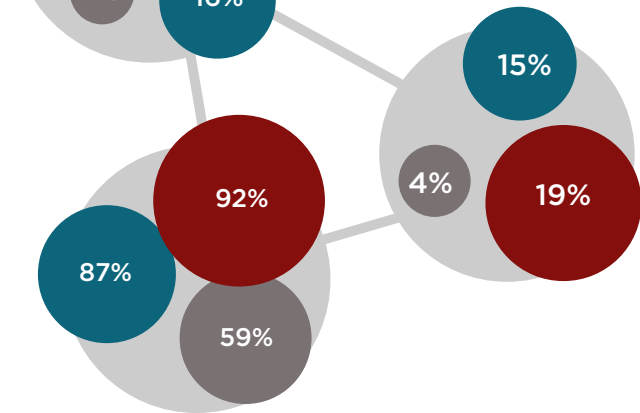
AMERICANS WITH BACHELOR'S DEGREES AND HIGHER ARE MUCH MORE LIKELY TO PARTICIPATE IN CIVIC LIFE INCLUDING VOLUNTEERING, JOINING ORGANIZATIONS AND VOTING



Participated in service or civic organization:



Voted in most recent federal election:



Participated in sports/recreation organization:



<https://www.nacubo.org/Advocacy/State-of-Higher-Education/More-is-Possible>



EMPLOYERS HIGHLY VALUE HOLISTIC EDUCATION



When identifying strong job candidates, at least three-quarters of employers are looking for evidence of the following "very important" skills:

- oral and written communication
- critical and creative thinking
- complex problem-solving
- teamwork and the ability to work with diverse others
- digital literacy and data analysis

THE TOP SKILL EMPLOYERS WOULD LIKE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TO PLACE MORE EMPHASIS ON:

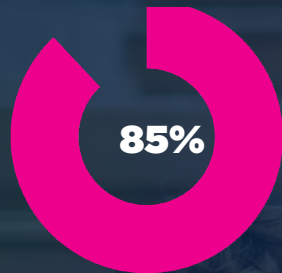
CRITICAL THINKING



<https://dgm81pnhvh63.cloudfront.net/content/user-photos/Research/PDFs/AACU-2023-Employer-Report.pdf>

DISTINCTIVES OF CCCU INSTITUTIONS

The contributions of Christian higher education extend far beyond an individual degree by adding economic, social, and cultural vitality to communities, regions, and the nation. In an increasingly polarized and divisive culture, CCCU institutions play a redemptive role in the world by providing education that develops students in a holistic and integrated way. **They train future leaders who are deep thinkers and equipped doers, committed to working for the common good because of their faith in Jesus Christ.**



Students who stated they learned to think critically and analytically



Students who stated that on their campus, they were challenged to think about issues from a Christian perspective



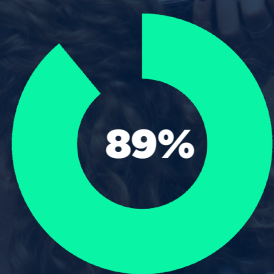
Students who rate their entire educational experience as positive



Students who stated they feel valued at their institution



Students who stated that they feel comfortable being themselves at their institution



Students who had high-quality interactions with faculty

*“Though much has changed about our world and about the college experience, one thing is constant: Young men and women attending college remain impressionable, and the influences they have during this period will shape their lives. College is a time for setting students up for success, not just in what they will do with their lives, but also **who they will become.** Christian colleges have world-class academic programs, as do many other higher education institutions, but that isn’t the only thing students need. The formation of one’s personhood is shaped by whom you study with, who influences you, and who becomes your community, because that shapes adult practices and habits of the heart.”*

— **SHIRLEY HOOGSTRA,**
President, CCCU

A CHRIST-LIKE **BOLDNESS**

CHARITABLE GIVING DECLINED IN 2022 AND IS EXPECTED TO FURTHER DECLINE.

Giving to religious organizations is expected to decline more because religious giving is predominated by individuals, and giving by individuals declined by 6.8%, or 13.4% when adjusted for inflation.

Source: <https://lakeinstitute.org/resource-library/july-issue1-2023>

The CCCU supports charitable giving at all levels for all individuals.

For every \$1 in federal grant money a student receives, CCCU institutions provide \$5 in institutional financial aid, and a significant percentage of that crucial institutional aid comes from charitable donations. We encourage support for the bipartisan Charitable Act (H.R. 3435, S. 566) which would restore and expand the universal charitable giving deduction.

CHARITABLE GIVING

13%

of donors provide **88%** of charitable giving. We want to increase this to ensure lower to middle income and younger donors have an incentive to give.

10%

Current deduction only available to those who itemize.

53%

of respondents indicated they would give to charity if they were able to claim a deduction for their giving.

Source: https://councilfo-my.sharepoint.com/:b/g/person/advocacy_cccu_org/EYe-POLw2bQJEiuSQCF4EYp8BY0lvqV8HatXg4Sjk3tOoeA?e=gmcKxE



FAFSA

We are grateful for many parts of the new FAFSA, including that the new form will be simpler and shorter. However, we ask you to support reintroducing the consideration of siblings in college into the financial aid formula. This commonsense factor greatly affects the ability of families and students to afford college.

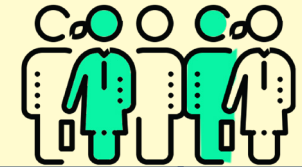
MENTAL HEALTH



FAFSA

55%

Over half of current college students (55%) who have considered leaving college cite **emotional stress** as the primary driver, according to a recent national survey.



2 of 5 **44%**

Over two out of five (44%) college students are struggling with clinically significant anxiety or depression, but less than half of these students had mental health counseling and/or therapy in the past years.

We encourage Congress to consider federal investment in higher education institutions to support the well-being and mental health of our students.

PELL GRANTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Tori is in the nursing program at Northwestern, an institution she was drawn to “for its pursuit for academic excellence by wanting to promote redemption and restoration through the love of Christ.”

But without Pell Grants and other financial aid, “my time here at Northwestern would not have been the same. I can have more peace of mind financially as I continue my academic journey. Thanks to the grant I am able to put more time and effort into my studies, classes, and relationships rather than stressing about how to afford higher education.”

TORI BUCKLER
Northwestern College, IA

Source: <https://doublepell.org/story/tori-buckler/>



WORK STUDY PLAYS A CRUCIAL ROLE

“Work study plays a crucial role in allowing students, including first-generation students like me, to provide both financial support and work experience.”

Work study enables individuals to pursue education while gaining practical skills, making education more accessible and meaningful.”

JACOB ZAMARRON
Senior, Finance major
John Brown University

PRIORITIZING NEED-BASED AID

We ask Congress to prioritize funding for work-study, FSEOG, and other need-based aid in budget appropriations.

71%

of employers indicated they would be “much more” likely to consider a job candidate with a job or work-study experience

Source: <https://dgmg81phhvh63.cloudfront.net/content/user-photos/Research/PDFs/AACU-2023-Employer-Report.pdf> page 23

PELL

Pell is the cornerstone of need-based aid for higher education, and the CCCU supports increasing the Pell Grant.

1 IN 3

CCCU STUDENTS RECEIVE PELL ASSISTANCE

Increasing the grant would put more money in the hands of the students and make it possible for more low-income students to have access to high-quality education.



More than **50%** of CCCU students come from families that make **less than \$50,000** per year.



PELL HAS WIDESPREAD SUPPORT

82%

of all voters support expanding Pell, including 77% of Republicans and 91% of Democrats

Source: <https://doublepell.org/resource/national-survey-shows-strong-bipartisan-support-for-the-federal-pell-grant-program/>

FUNDING

FUNDING



RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

The CCCU believes that religious freedom is essential to the common good and supports robust religious protections of beliefs and practices for all faith traditions by:

- Fighting for the rights of religion, association, and speech, which ensure CCCU institutions can teach as well as maintain policies that are consistent with their religious beliefs and convictions while participating fully within the public square.
 - Ensuring that institutions adhering to biblical principles are protected in areas such as federal funding, hiring, Title IX, and free speech.
 - Advocating for legislation, regulations, and judicial rulings that protect religious freedom for individuals and institutions of faith.
 - Working with a broad coalition of religious traditions and denominations to support principled pluralism.
-

EVANGELICAL VIEWS ON IMMIGRATION



80%

OF EVANGELICALS SUPPORT CHANGES INCLUDING PATH TO CITIZENSHIP FOR DREAMERS, PROVIDING A RELIABLE NUMBER OF AGRICULTURE WORKERS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO BORDER SECURITY.



70%

OF EVANGELICALS BELIEVE THAT THE U.S. HAS A MORAL RESPONSIBILITY TO ACCEPT REFUGEES.



78%

OF EVANGELICALS SUPPORT POTENTIAL IMMIGRATION LEGISLATION THAT ESTABLISHES A PATH TOWARD CITIZENSHIP.

Our institutions work in a wide variety of ways to follow the biblical commands to care for the marginalized and vulnerable — including those who want to pursue higher education but are in the United States illegally through no fault or decision of their own. We support legislation that would provide a permanent solution for Dreamers to gain citizenship, and support bipartisan, comprehensive immigration reform that:

- Respects the God-given dignity of every person;
- Protects the unity of the immediate family;
- Respects the rule of law;
- Guarantees secure national borders;
- Ensures fairness to taxpayers; and
- Establishes a path toward legal status and/or citizenship for those who qualify and who wish to become permanent



IMMIGRATION



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