

State Legislatures and Higher Education Policy

Presentation to the California Assembly Higher Education
Committee
February 19, 2013



NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas



Julie Davis Bell
NCSL Education Program





Growing Legislative Interest in Higher Ed

- **Economy and the recent recession**
- **Decreasing state funding for higher ed**
- **Warnings that US higher ed is no longer best in the world**
- **Competitiveness and job outsourcing**
- **Changing demographics in states**
- **College completion rates everywhere are dismal**
- **New competition from University of Phoenix, on-line learning and other private entities**
- **Hearing from constituents about cost**
- **Higher ed as an investment to help economic development**





2012 Activity: Productivity Focus

- **Improving completion: Getting more students through the system**
- **Eliminating duplicate and inefficient programs**
- **Using facilities better**
- **Increasing faculty workloads**
- **Incorporating technology into instruction**
- **Easing and facilitating articulation and transfer**
- **Improving high school rigor and college readiness**
- **Performance funding**





On the Horizon for 2013

- **New funding strategies (performance/outcomes based)**
- **Privatization strategies**
- **Incentives for students to move through the system quicker**
- **Eliminating unproductive/duplicative programs**
- **Measuring quality**
- **Accountability for on-line and for-profit sectors**
- **Promoting collaboration among institutions**
- **Governance**
- **State student financial assistance**
- **Emerging federal role in higher education/shifting state role**
- **Community colleges and place-based strategies**
- **Fundamental conversations about the state obligation to provide higher ed and new strategies for long term funding**



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