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PRESIDENT BIDEN AND HIGHER ED

The \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus package proposal by President Biden contains \$40 billion for higher education. The proposed bill is based on a formula that emphasizes Pell Grant recipients, which is some 70% of HFC's student population.

The Biden bill is based upon full-time equated students, not full-time students as in the past. This, too, benefits community colleges such as HFC.

The bill also provides significant funds to cities and states, which may address Michigan's funding of public services, mitigating the competition for State funds between K-12, higher education, and public services.

Separate but independent of the \$1.9 trillion package is President Biden's proposal to provide "tuition-free" community college for students. This, like Michigan's First Responders and Michigan Reconnect Programs would be "last dollar" programs, covering remaining tuition costs after other funding sources (e.g. Pell Grants). This, too, would diminish costs for both HFC's district and out-of-district students.

The country now has a President intent on stimulating the economy as well as funding education and its economic opportunity for our students.

John

SNAP Food Program for College Students

Dear Colleagues,

We know that many of you are already involved in various ways with anti-hunger and basic needs advocacy. **We need your help** amplifying the message that Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/"food stamp") eligibility has been extended for students, undergraduate and graduate alike, who are eligible for federal work-study (they do not have to be participating, just eligible) or have an expected family contribution (EFC) of zero during the pandemic.

This expands SNAP benefit eligibility to as many as three million students who were not previously eligible. In an expansion this significant, the new eligibility criteria may include members and/or your students.

An AFT Message for Members and Students:

"As you may know, in December Congress made many more students in higher education—undergraduate and graduate--eligible for SNAP. We need to make sure that everyone who is eligible knows about this expansion and about how to apply.

The US Department of Education encourages students to contact their local SNAP offices to find out how to apply, or for other questions about their SNAP eligibility. State SNAP agencies administer the program, process applications, and determine eligibility. Contact information for State SNAP agencies and local offices can be found in FNS' [SNAP State Directory](#).

Because of the stigmatization of public assistance and those who benefit from it, there is a lot of fear and shame about applying for SNAP; our Union can help combat that by normalizing SNAP benefits. And the more eligible people who use SNAP, the more other campus and community resources can be made available to those who are not SNAP-eligible but need assistance.

Please pass this information on to all students you know. We want everyone fed."

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(Snap Program continued)

SNAP GOING DEEPER:

The guidance from the Dept of Education is [here](#), and there is a press release with comprehensive background [U.S. Gov](#)

An article explaining the changes and offering advice about outreach: <https://tcf.org/content/commentary/congress-made-3-million-college-students-newly-eligible-snap-food-aid-heres-must-come-next/>

An article highlighting a student-led outreach campaign at CUNY: <https://civileats.com/2021/02/16/college-students-struggle-to-enroll-in-snap-but-peer-support-programs-help/>

Alyssa Picard

Director | AFT Higher Education

E: apicard@aft.org | O: 202-585-4368

A New Deal for Higher Education

Expertise and critical thinking are under attack, and our society suffers as a result. We need to reaffirm the roles that higher education plays in our society. We must stand up for a just, inclusive system of higher education, one that can help transform our society. **We need a New Deal for Higher Education.**

BUILD PROSPERITY FROM THE BOTTOM UP

Education and educated people drive economic success, from the vibrancy of our communities to the health of the whole economy. Higher education provides these tools by preparing students to be the workforce of the future, from teachers, nurses, and technicians to programmers, paralegals, and IT specialists. As large employers, universities and colleges have the ability to reverse course and lead with truly high road practices that strengthen the stability of their workforces, the educational experiences of their students, and their local economies.

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(A New Deal continued)

ADVANCE SOCIAL, RACIAL, AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Teaching and research should raise our awareness of systemic inequalities and racism, and pioneer new ways to address them. The education and training available to students in higher education should also create economic mobility and reverse economic disparities. If our system of higher education is affordable and accessible to all, it can be a pillar of a more just world.

STRENGTHEN DEMOCRACY AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Participating in democracy requires the ability to recognize truth, to challenge our understandings, and to think critically about the world in which we find ourselves. Higher education challenges all students to build these abilities. Strengthening higher education makes our democracy stronger because it empowers people to think about their lives and make meaningful change in the world.

FOSTER KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION

Higher education must inspire the free exchange of ideas and the search for truth. All scholarship and teaching creates value--whether it is social, economic, or cultural. Scholarly work advances us as a society and prepares us for the challenges of our world.

The New Deal for Higher Education platform will seek to recenter our public colleges and universities as a common good. In addition to addressing tuition costs, institutional funding, and student debt relief, we will pursue reforms related to racial injustice and inequities, labor practices, academic freedom and governance, federal research funding, technical and vocational education, and a host of other challenges that have diminished our national capacity to educate our communities.

AAUP/AFT New Deal for Higher Education <http://www.newdealforhighered.org>

Ford X-Plan

A few years ago, as a result of the efforts of Local 1650 President John McDonald's daughter Mary Gollan, who sponsored HFCC's request at Ford Motor, and HFCC's longstanding relationship with Ford Motor Company, **Ford's Partner Recognition Program** was made available to all HFCC employees.

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(Ford X-Plan continued)

Partner Recognition offers all of the employees of the College the ability to purchase or lease eligible vehicles at **Ford Motor Company's X-Plan Pricing**. To participate in the Ford X-Plan, contact the Office of Human Resources for a PIN number.

In your decision to purchase or lease a new vehicle, please give careful consideration to buying a UAW or Canadian Auto Worker (CAW) made vehicle. As Henry Ford Community College employees and beneficiaries of Ford Motor Company property taxes, please consider a union-built Ford product.

The union movement contributed a great deal to the creation of a large middle class in this country. The UAW, in particular, was influential in the creation of public sector unions and creating middle class wages and benefits for not simply its members, but for non-organized white and blue collar workers as well.

John

1650 Membership at 100%

Local 1650's longstanding tradition of 100% membership continues. Thank you to our new and our more "seasoned" members for your continued faith in your Union.

The 1650 Officers, Area Representatives, Committee Chairs, and activist members work hard to benefit our faculty, students, and community. We can only do so with the support of each of you. Thank you for that support.

John

Vaccines and President Kavalhuna

HFC faculty and staff owe a debt of gratitude to President Kavalhuna for his determined effort over many weeks – at the State and County levels – to secure vaccinations opportunities for faculty and staff. Appreciation is also due to Dr. Gonko, the College Committee overseeing a safe campus, and Dr. Gonko's staff for their hard work in this effort as well.

John