



Thursday, April 27, 2017

Dear CEF Members:

## I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **2017 appropriations status** - Negotiations appear to be going well on an omnibus package of 11 appropriations bills to fund the government through the end of fiscal year 2017, but not well enough to get it all done by time the current stop-gap funding bill expires at midnight on Friday. As a result, last night House Republicans introduced legislation to extend current funding – which is at the 2016 level – one more week, through May 5. Earlier this week the Administration withdrew its demand that the 2017 package provide funding for a border wall with Mexico, along with its threat to end subsidies for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act if that funding was not provided. That clears a huge obstacle to Democratic support for the funding bills.

We're hearing that the programmatic decisions on education funding are close to being complete, although there are still some policy riders on the Labor-HHS-Education bill that need to be resolved. Our expectation remains that most education programs are not likely to see large changes, using the bills approved last year by the House and Senate Appropriations Committees as a guide.

- **ED has a new press secretary** – The Department of Education has announced Liz Hill as its press secretary. She most recently worked for Rep. Jeb Hensarling (R-TX) as well as Rep. Luke Messer (R-IN). Many other positions remain vacant, including all of the Department's top political appointments except for the Secretary, according to Politico. In the meantime, several future deputy assistant secretaries are currently named as acting assistant secretaries.

## II. CEF Events

- **Nominate someone to honor at this year's CEF Gala** – We are asking all CEF members for suggestions of champions of education to receive an award at CEF's annual gala on October 3. Past [awardees](#) are a bipartisan roster of those who have taken a lead in efforts to provide federal education funding, including Members of Congress from both parties, Administration officials, former staffers, as well as those working outside of government on initiatives that will help students and promote learning. We want awardees to represent the gamut of our members' interests, and to

help draw people to attend the gala, as well. I've attached a nomination form – please send nominations to Gala Committee co-chair Kelly Vaillancourt at [kvallancourt@naspweb.org](mailto:kvallancourt@naspweb.org) by June 2, 2017.

- **CEF's upcoming schedule –**
  - **Friday, April 28, 9-11 am:** CEF meeting (AASCU, 1307 NY Ave, NW). Guest speaker: Emily Goff, Senior Policy Advisor, House Budget Committee Majority Staff
  - **Friday, May 5, 9-11 am:** CEF meeting (AASCU, 1307 NY Ave, NW). Guest speaker: Amy Jones, Director of Education Policy, House Education and the Workforce Committee Majority Staff
  - **Friday, May 12 –** No meeting
  - **Friday, May 19, 9-11 am:** CEF meeting (AFSCME, 1625 L ST, NW). Guest speaker: TBD
  - **Friday, May 26, 9-11 am:** CEF meeting (AASCU, 1307 NY Ave, NW). Guest speaker: TBD

My best,

Sheryl

Sheryl V. Cohen, Executive Director



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**Committee for Education Funding**  
*Gala 2017 Award Nomination Form*

**Deadline: Due by COB June 2, 2017, to Kelly Vaillancourt**

Email: [kvaillancourt@naspweb.org](mailto:kvaillancourt@naspweb.org)

Questions? Ask the Gala Committee co-chairs:

Ally Bernstein ([ally@jbernsteinstrategy.com](mailto:ally@jbernsteinstrategy.com)),

Noelle Ellerson Ng ([nellerson@aasa.org](mailto:nellerson@aasa.org)), Kelly Vaillancourt ([kvaillancourt@naspweb.org](mailto:kvaillancourt@naspweb.org))

**CEF Member Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Award Nominee (Name & Title):** \_\_\_\_\_

**CEF Award Nomination (please mark one box):**

**Lifetime And Career Awards**

	<b>The Edward M. Kennedy Lifetime Advocacy Award:</b> For demonstrating extraordinary advocacy on behalf of our nation's children and students
	<b>The Terrell H. Bell Award:</b> For outstanding advocacy of education as a congressional and national priority
	<b>The James O'Hara Award:</b> For life-long commitment in support of education and for outstanding leadership in advocating education as a congressional and national priority
	<b>Richard W. Riley Award:</b> For a career of exemplary support of better education for all

**115<sup>th</sup> Congress Awards**

	<b>The William H. Natcher Award:</b> For distinguished services during this session of Congress in elevating the priority for education funding to ensure better opportunities for our nation's citizens
	<b>Outstanding New Member Award:</b> For demonstrating commitment to our nation's students by advocating education as an investment in the future
	<b>Special Recognition Award:</b> For outstanding dedication to the success of America's students and for making education a national priority

**Citizen and Staff Awards**

	<b>Charles Wilson Lee Citizen Service Award</b>
	<b>Staff Recognition Award</b>

**Summary Statement:**

***Please describe why you believe your nominee should receive an award. The Board of Directors will consider this statement in recommending a slate of awardees for approval by CEF's membership. Attach additional sheets if necessary.***

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