



Thursday, July 11, 2019

**Thanks to those who have already sponsored CEF's 2019 Gala!**

**Straight "A"s sponsor:** American Federation of Teachers (AFT).

**Dean's List:** Just added: American Library Association (ALA). Council for Opportunity in Education (COE); MRM Associates/CASE; National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU).

**Honor Roll sponsors:** American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU); National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS); National Association of Secondary School Principals/National Association of Elementary School Principals/American Federation of School Administrators; National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP).

## I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Fiscal update** – Congress is back in session with the September 30<sup>th</sup> deadline to pass fiscal year (FY) 2020 appropriations bills approaching faster than it seems, and possibly a more pressing deadline to raise the federal debt limit that may occur in early to mid-September. Democrats have wanted a comprehensive budget deal that would include both the needed increase in the debt ceiling, or a suspension of the existing debt ceiling, as well as an increase on the sequester-level caps on defense and non-defense discretionary (NDD) spending that currently require deep cuts to both categories of spending for the upcoming fiscal year. The Administration had been arguing to just increase the debt ceiling, but as of yesterday talks between Administration negotiators and Republican Congressional leaders seem to acknowledge that some adjustment of the caps will be needed for a deal to be passed. Some proposals are listed below:
  - **Administration's current proposal** – Based on what we're hearing, the Administration wants to increase the debt ceiling before the August congressional recess, and Senate Majority Leader McConnell concurs. One Administration proposal was to freeze appropriations at the FY 2019 level for all of next year – a full-year continuing resolution (CR) – with a one-year debt-ceiling increase, presumably until some time after the 2020 elections. Freezing funding at the 2019 level would require raising the FY 2020 defense and NDD caps, but not as high as the levels that the House has already approved. Congress never wants to approve a full-year CR, and certainly not so far before the fiscal year begins.
  - **Administration's original budget proposal** – The President's FY 2020 budget submitted in February cut NDD funding down to the sequester cap – a \$54 billion or 9% cut from FY 2019 levels – but provided large defense increases with spending that is not controlled by the caps and that is supposed to be reserved for war funding. Neither the House nor the Senate has supported this approach.

- **House proposal** – The House has approved increases in funding that are supported by the 10 appropriations bills it has already passed: a \$34 billion increase over the FY 2019 level for NDD funding and a \$17 billion increase for defense, which reflect equal \$88 billion increases over their sequester-level caps set in current law. Speaker Pelosi does not want to approve a debt ceiling increase without also increasing the caps.
- **Senate** – the Senate has not taken action on any FY 2020 appropriations bills while waiting to see what budget agreement is reached about the caps.

## II. Advocacy

- **Last chance to sign up to participate in CEF’s Hill Advocacy Day on Wednesday** – There’s still time to sign up to participate in CEF’s annual Hill advocacy day on Wednesday, July 17, from 1p.m.-4:30 p.m. For those who haven’t joined a Hill Teams visit before, you can see the material we leave with congressional staff online: some [CEF charts](#), our [current 4-page education funding table](#) (it shows the House-passed levels), the [Department of Education’s calculation of funding for the particular state](#), some recent [CEF letters](#), [fact sheets](#), and the [list of CEF members](#). We hope you, your colleagues, your out-of-town grassroots members, and summer interns will participate. Please [sign up here](#) and note if you are bringing others, and if so, which states they are from so we can match participants to Members of Congress.

## III. Events

- **Vote tomorrow on honorees for the gala** – At tomorrow’s meeting, CEF membership will vote on a slate of recommended honorees for the 2019 gala; we will send a memo from the Gala Committee co-chairs with the agenda for the meeting later today. Thanks to the organizations listed above that have already purchased sponsorships to CEF’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary gala and legislative conference this September! This year our annual gala will be at an exciting new location and will feature a seated dinner and awards ceremony following a reception, all at the InterContinental-The Wharf in DC’s vibrant southwest waterfront neighborhood. CEF’s gala is the once-per-year opportunity for the education community to come together for an enjoyable evening and honor champions of education; tickets also include attendance at the legislative conference in the afternoon. The gala is also a fundraiser for CEF – the only one we hold all year. [CEF’s website](#) has information about the gala itself, sponsorship benefits at each level, and how to purchase individual tickets and ads in the gala program, and we are happy to answer any questions, of course.
- **CEF’s summer research briefings** – In the place of Friday meetings during August while Congress is in recess, CEF will hold two research briefings:
  - **Wednesday, August 7, 10-11:30 a.m. “Early Childhood Education: Federal and State Funding, Unmet Need, and Return on Investment”** at AFSCME, 1625 L Street, NW.
    - Catherine White, Director of Child Care and Early Learning, National Women’s Law Center
    - Barbara Willer, Senior Advisor, National Association for the Education of Young Children.
    - Others still to be confirmed.

- **Wednesday, August 21, 10-11:30 a.m.**, at AACTE, 1307 New York Ave, NW. Details to come soon.
- **CEF's schedule for the rest of the summer –**
  - **Tomorrow, July 12**, 9-11 a.m., at AACTE (1307 New York Ave, NW). Guest speaker will be speaking at 9:30am: Leighton Huch, Rep. Cheri Bustos (D-IL).
  - **Wednesday, July 17**, 1-4:30 p.m. CEF Hill Advocacy Day. See above for how to participate.
  - **Friday, July 19** - 9-11 a.m., at University of California (1608 Rhode Island Ave, NW). Guest speakers: Emily Smith and Mark Ritacco, Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT).
  - **Friday, July 26**, 9-11 a.m., at AACTE (1307 New York Ave, NW). Guest speaker: Joshua Delaney, Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA).
  - **Wednesday, August 7**, 10-11:30 a.m., CEF summer research briefing on early childhood education, at AFSCME (1625 L Street, NW). See details above.
  - **Wednesday, August 21**, 10-11:30 a.m., CEF summer research briefing – details still to come – at AACTE (1307 New York Ave, NW).
  - **Friday, September 6**, 9-11 a.m., at AACTE (1307 New York Ave, NW). Guest speaker: TBD.