Focus on Education
This Week in Washington

December 7 – December 11, 2015
Kuna Tavalin, Editor
ktavalin@wpllc.net

Prepared for the Council on Undergraduate Research

This Week in Washington, a weekly publication of WP LLC, provides an overview of upcoming events in Washington, D.C. that are relevant to CUR’s interests. Please use the bookmarks below to navigate to your area of interest.

Weekly Calendar
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
On The Floor This Week
Bills to Watch
Important Links
About WP LLC

Weekly Calendar

Monday, December 7, 2015
Science on Diversity and Affirmative Action

Subject: The American Educational Research Association (AERA) will host an event to discuss the scientific evidence on the use of race as a factor in university admissions policies, the educational benefits of student diversity, and the consequences of Fisher v. University of Texas, Austin for higher education and the STEM workforce.

Participants: Gary Orfield, distinguished research professor of Education, Law, Political Science and Urban Planning, University of California, Los Angeles; Liliana M. Garces, assistant professor, Higher Education Program and research associate, Center for the Study of Higher Education, Penn State; Angelo N. Ancheta, counsel of record, AERA; Shirley M. Malcom, director, Education and Human Resources Programs, American Association of the Advancement of Science; and Felice J. Levine, executive director, AERA (Moderator).

Time and Location: 12:00 p.m. (Boxed Lunches available); Event begins 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.; National Press Club, 529 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Contact: Register here.

Diversity in Higher Education

Subject: The Century Foundation will hold an event, “What’s Next for Affirmative Action in Higher Education?”

Participants: Roger Clegg, president and general counsel, Center for Equal Opportunity; Lia Epperson, professor of law and associate dean for faculty and academic affairs, American University Washington College of Law; Richard D. Kahlenberg, senior fellow, The Century Foundation; Gerald Torres, professor, Cornell Law School; and Alia Wong, associate editor for education, The Atlantic.
**Time and Location:** 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.; 1333 H Street, NW, 10th Floor, Washington, DC.

**Contact:** Register here.

**Tuesday, December 8, 2015**

**Leaders in STEM Fields**

**Subject:** STEMConnector will hold an event via Google Hangout, “100 CIO/CTO Leaders in STEM – Town Hall.”

**Participants:** Balaji Ganapathy, human resources head, Tata Consultancy Services; Sophie Vandebroek, chief technology officer and president, Xerox Innovation Group; Michael Keithley, chief innovation officer, Creative Artists Agency; and Armistead Sapp, executive vice president and chief technology officer, SAS Institute Inc.

**Time:** 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Contact:** Register here

**Wednesday, December 9, 2015**

**Influence of Mathematics**

**Subject:** The American Mathematical Society will hold a briefing, “From Right Triangles to Modern Cryptography.”

**Participants:** Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-CA); Kenneth A. Ribet, professor of mathematics, University of California, Berkeley; and Robert L. Bryant, president, American Mathematical Society.

**Time and Location:** 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.; 2322 Rayburn HOB.

**Contact:** RSVP to amsdc@ams.org.

**Thursday, December 10, 2015**

None.

**Friday, December 11, 2015**

**Improving Opportunities for African American Students**

**Subject:** The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation’s Center for Education and Workforce will hold the second of its two-day event, “The Path Forward: Improving Opportunities for African-American Students.”

**Time and Location:** 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.; 1615 H Street, NW, Washington, DC.

**Contact:** Register here.

---

**Future Hearings and Events**

**Tuesday, December 15, 2015**

**Public Benefits and Low-Income Students**

**Subject:** The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) will hold an event, “How Public Benefits Programs Can Help Fill the Financial Gaps Facing Low-Income College Students.”

**Participants:** Doug Lederman, editor and co-founder, Inside Higher Ed; Amy Ellen Duke-Benfield, senior policy analyst, CLASP; Angela Johnson, executive director of enrollment operations, Cuyahoga Community College; and Mark Mitsui, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Colleges, U.S. Department of Education.

**Time and Location:** 10:00 a.m.; 1200 18th Street, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC.

**Contact:** Register here.

**Wednesday, December 16, 2015**

**Education Stakeholder Forum**

**Subject:** The Department of Education National Engagement Team will hold an Education Stakeholder Forum.

**Participants:** Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education; and John King, Deputy Secretary of Education.
Time and Location: 2:30 p.m.; 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, LBJ Building, Washington, DC.
Contact: RSVP to EDStakeholder@ed.gov.

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Gates Foundation Reflects on 15 Years Investing in Education
Subject: The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will host an online conversation to introduce the Let’s Talk series that addresses the main issues teachers are facing and focuses on what teachers need to make sure students are college and career ready. Key findings from the first two Let’s Talk releases: Nobody Knows Teaching Like Teachers and Teaching and Learning for College Readiness will be shared.
Time and Location: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Contact: Register here.

STEM Equity
Subject: The National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE) will hold a webinar, “Solving the Education Equation: A New Plan for Improving STEM Workforce Outcomes Through Academic Equity.”
Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Contact: Register here.

On The Floor This Week

Senate Floor:
Consideration of Conference Report to accompany H.R. 1177, Every Student Succeeds Act
Possible Consideration of a Consolidated Appropriations Act

House Floor:
H.R. 2130 – Red River Private Property Protection Act
Possible Consideration of a Consolidated Appropriations Act
Possible Consideration of the Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 644 – Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015
Possible Consideration of Legislation to Extend Certain Provisions of the Tax Code
Possible Consideration of the Senate Amendment to H.R. 3762 – Restoring Americans’ Healthcare Freedom Reconciliation Act of 2015

Bills to Watch

APPROPRIATIONS
Continuing Appropriations Act, 2016 (9/30/15 Signed by President)
This measure is the vehicle for FY2016 continuing appropriations (through December 11, 2015).

H.R. 2578 Sponsor: Rep. John Culberson (R-TX)

S. # Sponsor: Sen. Richard Shelby (R-AL)

H.R.2822 Sponsor: Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA)

S. 1645 Sponsor: Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)

H.R.3020 Sponsor: Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK)
Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Act of FY 2016 (6/24/15 Passed by Appropriations Committee; 6/17/2015 Passed by Subcommittee)

S. 1695 Sponsor: Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO)

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT (ESEA)
S. 1177 Sponsor: Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN)
Every Child Achieves Act of 2015 (7/16/15 Passed by Senate; 4/16/2015 Passed HELP Committee)

Student Success Act (7/8/15 Passed by House of Representatives; 2/27/2015 Debated and amended on the House Floor; 2/11/15 Passed by Education and the Workforce Committee)

HIGHER EDUCATION ACT (HEA)
H.R. 3594 Sponsor: Rep. Mike Bishop (R-MI)
Higher Education Extension Act of 2015 (9/28/2015 Passed by House)

EDUCATION SCIENCES REFORM ACT (ESRA)
S. 227 Sponsor: Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN)
Strengthening Education through Research Act (2/04/2015 Passed HELP Committee)

Links for Up-to-Date Information on Hearings, Legislation, and Events
U.S. House of Representatives 2016 Schedule
U.S. Senate 2016 Schedule
U.S. House of Representatives 2015 Schedule
U.S. Senate 2015 Schedule
U.S. Department of Education
U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. Senate Budget Committee
U.S. House Budget Committee

Back to top.
About WPLLC

Washington Partners, LLC is a full service government affairs and public relations consulting firm that has built a reputation for producing results. We partner with clients committed to excellence in education and other social services to achieve policy and advocacy success by:

- leveraging our expertise and passion;
- strategizing intelligent solutions; and,
- Creating meaningful impact.

Our team includes long-term insiders in education policy from Pre-K through higher education, innovative thinkers and savvy strategists that provide a comprehensive array of customized client services. We have the knowledge, skills, and relationships that are necessary for successful advocacy at all levels. From grassroots to grass tops and everything in between, our broad-based legislative practice approaches every project with the same degree of determination and professionalism. WPLLC provides expertise in a variety of services:

- Government Relations
- Research and Analysis
- Advocacy Training
- Association Management
- Strategic Communications
- Policy Events

For more information, please call us at 202.289.3900 or visit our website.

This publication contains links to Internet sites for the convenience of World Wide Web users. Washington Partners, LLC is not responsible for the availability or content of these external sites, nor does Washington Partners, LLC endorse, warrant or guarantee the information, services, or products described or offered at these other Internet sites. Copyright 2015.Washington Partners, LLC. Redistribution of this memorandum or its content outside the immediate organization of the intended recipient without the express prior permission of Washington Partners, LLC is prohibited. Readers are encouraged to send comments about this publication to efern@wpllc.net or call 202.289.3900.