



Higher education in the United States is in crisis. Decades of draconian cuts to public funding for colleges and universities have shifted the burden of paying for higher education from the broader public to the individual student. This abandonment of higher education as a common good has led to crippling student debt, the replacement of a full-time faculty with protections for academic freedom and a voice in shared governance by an exploited contingent teaching corps, and a diminished ability for academic experts to bring their skills to bear for the public good. Increasingly, colleges and universities are portrayed as merely a means for job training and personal advancement, or even as centers of liberal indoctrination. The crisis closes doors to students, exacerbates racial and class inequality, demoralizes and starves the ranks of faculty and staff, and hollows out the teaching and research upon which our nation relies. The challenges of the twenty-first century—emerging diseases, racial inequality, climate change, food insecurity, and others—require a reinvestment in our system of higher education.

We need a New Deal for Higher Education. Our campaign embraces American higher education and the people who work in it as they support a diverse citizenry and promote the general welfare. Our campaign will use collective action to influence college and university policies, advocate for state legislation, and push members of Congress to reauthorize the federal Higher Education Act and create other federal higher education policies that establish stable and dedicated public funding streams and hold administrations accountable for how those monies are spent. This campaign will advocate for:

- prioritizing teaching, research, and supporting student success;
- allowing all students to access higher education regardless of their ability to pay;
- ensuring job security, equitable pay, professional voice, and sustainable careers for all faculty and staff;
- creating academic environments free from racism, sexism, and other bigotries that prevent learning, degrade research, and perpetuate inequality; and
- canceling student debt for borrowers who have unjustly shouldered the burden of financing higher education the last forty years.

Let's move forward. Let's mobilize to rebuild higher education. With meaningful public funding for teaching and research across all academic departments our institutions can excel as drivers of innovative thinking, economic growth, dynamic citizen engagement, and creative solutions. We must advocate for specific federal, state, and institutional policies that will drive fundamental reform and fulfill the promise of higher education as a public good. We invite students, staff, faculty, parents, alumni, trustees, community members, and community, academic, labor, and business organizations to join us in creating a New Deal for Higher Education.