

TICUA Policy Update
February 9, 2007

TICUA Presidents Visit DC Capitol Hill

On Tuesday, February 6, 2007 a number of TICUA member presidents met together with Senator Lamar Alexander to discuss higher education policy. Among the topics explored were the Bush Administration's proposal to increase the Pell Grant to \$5,100, making the IRA Charitable rollover permanent, and rising concern over Education Secretary Spellings' desire to impose new regulations on accreditation.

Additional visits were made to the offices of Senator Bob Corker, Congressman Steve Cohen, and Congressman Lincoln Davis.

Governor Bredesen Proposes a \$3.8 million Improvement for TSAA

Governor Phil Bredesen has proposed a \$3.8 million improvement for the State's need-based aid program. This represents about \$1.4 million more than the Tennessee Higher Education budget recommendation. The Governor desires to make this improvement from his proposed cigarette tax increase.

Senator Jamie Woodson to be Recognized

TICUA will have the honor of recognizing Senator Jamie Woodson for her championing of student aid in Tennessee. Woodson, Chair of the Senate Education Committee, has worked diligently to make sure that students attending TICUA member institutions are treated fairly in the State's student aid programs. Most recently she sponsored the bill to include private colleges and universities in the foster care provision of the Tennessee Lottery Scholarship programs. TICUA will honor Senator Woodson at the upcoming 51st TICUA Annual Meeting.

Representative Mark Maddox to be Honored

During the upcoming 51st TICUA Annual Meeting participants will pause to honor the work of Representative Mark Maddox. Maddox has been a long-time supporter of independent higher education. He has already filed two bills on TICUA's behalf for the 105th General Assembly. Maddox has a strong voting record for Tennessee's student aid programs.