

The conferees agree that the Secretary should use the authority in the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act to award innovation and modernization grants. These grants can support coding programs that can be particularly important in rural and underserved areas that do not have access to coding resources.

STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The conferees include a \$100 increase in the discretionary maximum Pell grant award, increasing the total maximum award, including additional mandatory funding, to \$6,195 in award year 2019-2020.

HIGHER EDUCATION

GEAR UP.—The conferees direct the Department to announce Notices Inviting Applications for New Awards for State Grants and Partnership Grants in the Federal Register. In such notice for State grants, the conferees direct the Department to uphold the long-standing guidance that States may only administer one active State GEAR UP grant at a time. The Secretary is directed to provide written guidance in the Federal Register notifying applicants that only States without an active State GEAR UP grant, or States that have an active State GEAR UP grant that is scheduled to end prior to October 1, 2019, will be eligible to receive a new State GEAR UP award funded in whole or in part by this appropriation.

Federal TRIO Programs.—The conferees reiterate concerns communicated in both the House and Senate reports related to the allocation of the fiscal year 2018 funding for TRIO programs. The Department's plan disregarded House direction to

allocate funding in the same ratio as the prior fiscal year. In addition, there is also concern that the Department may be placing burdensome requirements for the existing awardees in order for them to receive any additional funding. The conferees direct the Department to include in its fiscal year 2020 Congressional Justification information about how these additional funds were awarded, including a detailed budget justification. Additionally, the conferees expect plans for funding allocations by activity within the TRIO programs to be included in the operating plan required under section 516 of this Act. Last, the conferees direct the Department to brief the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on final funding allocations at least 30 days prior to the awarding of additional funding and/or the posting of a Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards.

Open Textbooks Pilot.—The conferees recommend that the Secretary award the funds provided in this Act through a new competition and make not less than 20 new grants with individual grants of between \$100,000 and \$1,000,000. The conferees recommend that the application deadline for the notice inviting grant applications for fiscal year 2019 be not less than 60 days from the date the notice is published. Further, any tools, technologies, or other resources that are created, developed, or improved wholly or in part with Pilot funds for use with an open textbook must be licensed under a worldwide, non-exclusive, royalty-free, perpetual, and irrevocable license to the public to exercise any of the rights under copyright conditioned only on the requirement that attribution be given as directed by the copyright owner.