MICUA

MARYLAND INDEPENDENT COLLEGE *and* UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION

MICUA's Request

Fair and Equitable Funding of the Sellinger Formula

1. Preserve the legislative integrity of the Sellinger formula created by the General Assembly more than five decades ago. Reject the current language in the BRFA and restore the formula to its original design.

2. Include a provision in the BRFA that ensures no single MICUA institution can receive more than 35% of the Sellinger formula allocation in one fiscal year.

A Cut of This Size Devastates Maryland Undergraduates

- The current BRFA language results in a nearly 50% reduction to the Sellinger Program. No single program in the entire FY 25 operating budget receives anywhere near a cut of this magnitude.
- The BRFA cut creates huge funding disparities for the institutions. Three schools receive drastic reductions (74%, 52%, 46%), eight receive cuts ranging from 10% to 22%, and one institution receives nearly the same allotment as the prior year.
- 89% of ALL Sellinger funds are dedicated to financial aid for Maryland students.
- At nearly all MICUA institutions, 99% of that financial aid funding is awarded to MARYLAND UNDERGRADUATES.
- Slashing half the financial aid to Maryland undergraduates will decimate enrollments.

The Timing Couldn't Be Worse

- The US Department of Education FAFSA delays are already expected to result in the smallest enrollments in decades.
- This cut will result in fewer low-income and first-generation students enrolling. 25% of MICUA undergraduates are recipients of Pell grants.
- Sellinger funding is CRITICAL to ensure MICUA members can award financial aid in time for students to make smart financial decisions.
- MICUA members avoided closures due to the pandemic and are just beginning to recover from the financial and enrollment declines. If MICUA institutions close, the State's 4-year publics don't have the capacity to serve the needs of our existing and prospective Maryland students.

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Maryland’s Workforce Will Suffer

- The Maryland economy now demands a highly educated workforce to survive, let alone thrive and grow.
- Maryland ranks 6th in bachelor’s degree attainment and 3rd in graduate or professional degree attainment because Maryland created a diverse system of education within our publics, independents and community colleges. There is a path for everyone in the State to pursue higher education.
- No individual sector of higher education can possibly meet all the demands of our economy and the needs of Maryland students, which is why, for 50 years the General Assembly has sought to provide to the independent sector a small % of the per student funding that was provided to USM institutions.
- MICUA members produce 50% of the education degrees at or above the baccalaureate level and Sellinger funding is critical to ensuring that teachers can afford their education. How does the State fulfill the goals of the Blueprint if our teacher candidates leave the State to get their degrees?
- Even with all three segments of higher education receiving support from the State, Maryland still loses two Maryland high school graduates for every one it imports from another State. This cut will result in more brain drain and more Maryland high school graduates leaving the State.

The History of The Sellinger Program

1971

MICUA is founded by independent college and university presidents.

1972

The University of Baltimore, then a private institution, seeks to be taken over by the State, citing financial troubles. The Pear Committee is established and recommends that the State provide public support for private higher education to strengthen a dual system of higher education.

1973

Following the recommendation of the Pear Committee, a program of State operating support is established.

1993

The State's formula to distribute aid is officialy renamed the **Joseph A. Sellinger** State Aid Program.

2023

MICUA celebrated **50 years** of continued public/private partnership with the State.

www.micua.org

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