

## SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS ON STATE FUNDING FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

### OUR REQUEST

As you wrestle with decisions and prioritize spending in next year's budget, I encourage you to prevent funding cuts for higher education programs in our state, especially where such reductions will adversely impact disciplines such as Political Science. We request level funding in next year's budget for higher education, with increases over time as [state's] economy returns to normal.

### KEY POINTS

- Thank you for all of your previous work and the strong bipartisan support for higher education that has funded political science and humanities programs throughout [insert state].
- Those investments have paid dividends for [insert state] as our political science and humanities graduates have gone into careers in business, law, teaching, finance, state and local government, and non-profit organizations. More importantly, funding for higher education has allowed graduates from these disciplines to maintain competitive salaries and brought much needed tax dollars back into the state's coffers. Finally, [University/College] remains one of the largest employers in [city/state], helping to lower our unemployment rate.
- Level funding would ensure [University's/College's] ability to meet demand for political science and humanities majors among students and continue preparing our graduates with skills to compete in the 21st century economy in a broad range of careers in law, finance, business or government.
- Preventing funding cuts will help universities maintain access to quality education across the full range of political science and humanities disciplines.
- Level funding for these disciplines benefits the state because they are also extremely popular among incoming students, leading to higher enrollment at [University/College] and more tuition dollars for the state.
- Without predictable and stable funding for higher education, university leaders will continue to experience uncertainty that impacts their ability to respond to the increasing demands for political science and humanities programs among students. More importantly, any cuts to higher education will limit [University's/College's] ability to produce high-skilled political science and humanities graduates that are prepared for the changing workforce needs of local employers in [state].
- Interest among students in political science programs and the humanities remain at all-time highs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

### FINAL "ASK"

All of our legislators have a role to play in supporting higher education and investing in our state's economy. I am asking you to oppose any effort to cut funding for higher education, which will have a negative impacts on political science and humanities programs and limit the ability of our students and graduates to pursue 21st century skills. I am also asking you to raise this issue with your fellow legislators and take a public stand by releasing a press release, op-ed, or making a floor speech in support of higher education.