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American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Update about the Free College Program

From President Lee Saunders, AFSCME International

AFSCME Family:

Please be advised that AFSCME International, learned that the U.S. Department of Education notified our “Free College” partners -Eastern Gateway Community College (EGCC), Central State University and Paul Quinn College – that they could no longer offer no-cost college to our members and their families. The department indicated that the financing of the program for students not eligible for Pell Grants is inconsistent with federal requirements. As a result, new students may not enroll.

There is no financial liability owed by any former or existing students who participated in the program. We are engaged in discussions with the department and EGCC concerning the continuing education of existing students. Continuation at no cost should not be an issue for any student who qualifies for a Pell Grant. For those who are not Pell eligible, and do not have an alternative source of funding, such as an employer or union trust funded tuition assistance program, we are seeking to continue Free College until their education is completed, but we do not now have an assurance that will be the case.

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