



Why Join the Higher Education Loan Coalition?

Membership in the Higher Education Loan Coalition (HELC) provides these benefits to your institution and its financial aid, enrollment management, and government relations staff:

- Significant **professional development** opportunities through participation in HELC events and meetings in Washington, D.C.;
- **Institutional name recognition** with congressional education committee members and their staff, who meet regularly with the HELC executive board;
- **Knowledge of higher education financing developments prior to public disclosure**, providing greater lead-time for your financial aid office for decision-making, preparation, and training;
- Ability to provide **direct policy advice** to Congress on student financial aid issues;
- **Opportunities to meet with U.S. Department of Education officials** to provide input into the resolution of operational issues that may arise on your campus;
- Ability to provide feedback to both Congress and the Department of Education to **assist in the formulation of proposed laws and regulations** that effect your institution; and
- **Weekly updates on federal policy and political developments** related to financial aid and higher education.

Testimonial

“HELC is an effective and focused piece of our broader federal advocacy efforts. It has provided valuable and unique opportunities to engage our student financial aid leadership at the federal level that otherwise may not have been available. I also find it useful that HELC convenes peer institutions and colleagues in settings to foster professional development, in addition to facilitating direct engagement with Capitol Hill and agencies.”

– Bill Couch, Assistant Vice President for Federal Relations, Ohio State University

Membership supports HELC’s efforts to improve:

- Student loan programs and other federal financial aid for your students and students nationwide; and
- Student loan processing systems for origination of loans, positively impacting operations in your financial aid office.



Under HELC's umbrella, its members have:

- Participated in the Negotiated Rulemaking process in the creation and promulgation of new regulations.
- Advocated for improved serving contracts for borrowers, such as the adoption of the single, white-branded portal that all students will use to interact with their servicer.
- Met with members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives and their legislative staff to advocate for financial aid policies that best serve students, including the elimination of SULA, loan origination fees, and interest capitalization.
 - HELC has met with the offices of Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Patty Murray (D-WA), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Roy Blunt (R-MO), Tammy Baldwin (D-IL), Mitt Romney (R-UT), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Tim Scott (R-SC), Tim Kaine (D-VA), and Representatives Bobby Scott (D-VA), Virginia Foxx (R-NC), Susan Davis (D-CA), Donna Shalala (D-FL), Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), Lloyd Smucker (R-PA), and John Garamendi (D-CA), as well as former Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA) and Representatives Thomas Petri (R-WI) and George Miller (D-CA), among others.
- Participated in HELC sponsored symposiums on Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act and Re-Imagining Student Loans.
 - Through these symposiums, HELC has hosted such notable presenters as: Ted Mitchell, former Undersecretary of Education and now President of ACE; Rohit Chopra, previously of the CFPB; James Kvaal, President of TICAS and former Deputy Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council; Bob Shireman, founder of TICAS and currently a senior fellow at The Century Foundation; David Baime, Senior Vice President, AACC; Daniel Madzelan, AVP for Government Relations at ACE and retired higher education policy analyst with the U.S. Department of Education; and Julie Peller, Executive Director of Higher Learning Advocates, among many others.

