



APSCUF LEGISLATIVE GOALS AND PRIORITIES, 2011-2012

Education is an investment in the economic future of Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, the Commonwealth's investment in higher education has rapidly declined. An increase is essential for developing and maintaining a skilled workforce, retaining and attracting small businesses and large corporations, competing globally, and assuring statewide economic prosperity. Quality, accessible and affordable education is the key to Pennsylvania's economic recovery. Therefore, it is essential that Pennsylvania return to its past commitment to properly fund the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE).

- A. Promote sufficient baseline funding for PASSHE to ensure the Commonwealth reaps societal benefits, including economic productivity, job creation, valuable research, increased tax revenues and an engaged and educated populace.
- B. Eliminate the gap in PASSHE's budget by restoring state appropriations dollars that were previously filled by federal stimulus funds.
- C. Support the enactment of a dedicated and continuous appropriations mechanism to fund PASSHE.

According to its founding legislation, Act 188, PASSHE "shall be part of the Commonwealth's system of higher education. Its purpose shall be to provide high quality education at the lowest possible cost to the students. The primary Mission of the System is the provision of instruction for undergraduate and graduate students to and beyond the master's degree in the liberal arts and sciences and in applied fields, including the teaching profession."

- D. Take a leadership role in introducing, supporting and passing legislation, which benefits the State System of Higher Education, its students and faculty and advance the system's role in the cultural, social and educational revitalization of the campus communities.
- E. Promote Pennsylvania's public higher education system by supporting, through funding and core missions, a climate that fosters accessibility and affordability to diverse populations.
- F. Continue monitoring the operation of the State System of Higher Education under Act 188 insuring that the Act is appropriately implemented and individual institutional autonomy is preserved.
- G. Work with the Pennsylvania Department of Education and other regulatory agencies to ensure faculty representation in the development and implementation of higher education policies.
- H. Decrease the indebtedness of PASSHE students through changes in PHEAA grants.

APSCUF supports faculty collective bargaining for advancing professional standards. The APSCUF contract is designed to ensure academic freedom and tenure, maintain benefits, and promote collegial governance.