

Congressman Travis Childers Holds Higher Education Roundtable to Discuss Benefits of Recovery Act for College Students, Families

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Washington, DC - Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS) held a Higher Education Roundtable today at Itawamba Community College in Fulton to discuss how the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will benefit students and families throughout North Mississippi. The Congressman was joined by members of ICC's administration, Financial Aid staff, and students who include Pell Grant and financial aid recipients.

"The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act makes important investments in higher education and provides much-needed financial relief to college students and families," said Congressman Childers. "This commitment to education means more and better jobs, creating opportunity for thousands of young people in North Mississippi by allowing them to get the education they need to gain secure employment in this especially competitive environment. With the benefits provided by the Recovery Act, North Mississippi will be able to continue turning out a skilled work force, and our young people will be more able to succeed under today's difficult economic conditions."

The Recovery Act invests in higher education through the following measures:

- Increases the maximum Pell Grant by \$500, for a maximum of \$5,350 in 2009 and \$5,550 in 2010. An estimated 96,824 Mississippi students will benefit from this increase.
- Provides a new, partially refundable \$2,500 college tax credit for families that will benefit an estimated 63,000 students in Mississippi.
- Adds \$200 million to the federal College Work-Study program.

For information on applying for Pell Grants or financial aid, students and families can visit the U.S. Department of Education at <http://www.ed.gov/programs/fpg/index.html>, or <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>

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