



## 5 GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR Interacting with Elected Officials



### Take a common-sense approach

- Be genuine, sincere, and honest about why you're there.
- Be very appreciative of their time.
- Preface your conversation by saying that you are an active voice in your community.



### Tell a story

- Tell a story about what you're experiencing in higher education in your district—stories are memorable and will make a more lasting impression.
- Share the challenges you are facing, what students are experiencing, and how the local economy and jobs are impacted.



### Make an ask

- Be specific with your ask.
- What can your representative do to help? Co-sponsor a bill? Sign a letter with other members of Congress?



### Put it in writing

- Put together a written analysis of the challenges higher education is facing in your district and give it your representative at the meeting.
- Include your ask in the report and relate your recommendations back to your story.



### Follow up

- Get contact information for staff members and/or schedulers to request a follow up meeting, either on campus or at their district office.
- Reference the report that you left behind during your initial meeting.
- Be an active citizen and follow up on your ask until you get an answer.



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