

# 2012 Gubernatorial State of the State Speeches and Higher Education

UPDATED: February 29, 2012

Speeches given: 43

Speeches that have mentioned higher education: 39

Compiled by [Thomas Harnisch](#), Policy Analyst and [Emily Parker](#), Research and Policy Associate

## Alabama

Gov. Robert Bentley (R)

[State of the State Address](#) February 7, 2012

- Higher education was not mentioned in the address.

## Alaska

Gov. Sean Parnell (R)

[State of the State Address](#) January 19, 2012

- Highlighted the Alaska Performance Scholarship, a merit-based financial aid program designed to provide incentives for students to take a rigorous high school curriculum.
- Claimed the new scholarship has led to more students taking the ACT and SAT.
- Called for securing money and building a “fence of moral obligation” around the program.
- Quote: "Let us create a fund for that money so the fund's earnings can pay for these scholarships for future generations. Send our students this unmistakable message: If you keep your end of the bargain in the classroom, we will keep our end of the bargain in this chamber."

## Arizona

Gov. Jan Brewer (R)

[State of the State Address](#) January 9, 2012

- Higher education was not mentioned in the address.

## Arkansas

Gov. Mike Beebe (D)

No address scheduled in 2012

## California

Gov. Jerry Brown (D)

[State of the State Address](#) January 18, 2012

- Thanked lawmakers for passing the state DREAM Act

## Colorado

Gov. John Hickenlooper (D)

[State of the State Address](#) January 12, 2012

- The Administration is exploring separating Pinnacol Assurance, a state-chartered workers' compensation fund, from the state. Revenue from the change could provide money for college scholarships and economic development.
- Quote: “The link between higher education and economic development is clear. They go hand in glove. So if we agree on a new future for Pinnacol, we hope you will also agree that funding for scholarships makes sense.”

## **Connecticut**

Gov. Dan Malloy (D)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) February 8, 2012

- Called for an overhaul of teacher preparation programs.
- Lauded the state's "...world-class colleges and universities where young men and women unlock the doors of knowledge and allow their minds to expand."

## **Delaware**

Gov. Jack Markell (D)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 19, 2012

- Linked higher education and economic development. Delaware can attract business because of their good higher education institutions.
- Recognized Delaware's higher education institutions for health and wellness incentives for their employees.

## **Florida**

Gov. Rick Scott (R)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 10, 2012

- Plans to re-examine the state's higher education system to ensure Florida has the talented and educated workforce needed to advance the state.
- Quote: "Somewhere out there today, there are governmental officials meeting in Brazil, or India, or China, and they're not debating about whether they should provide students with the pragmatic knowledge to seize a larger piece of the global economy. No, the only debate they are having is about how quickly they can become dominant global players."
- Quote: "I look forward to working with you to closely look at our higher education system: to understand how we can ensure that in the future, job creators from around the world will have to look to Florida to find the talented and educated workforce they will need to compete in the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

## **Georgia**

Gov. Nathan Deal (R)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 10, 2012

- Lauded adjustments to keep the HOPE scholarship (the state's generous merit-based state student aid program) sustainable. His budget maintains same HOPE award as last year.
- Will seek to appropriate \$20 million for the needs based student loan program.
- Called for full funding of enrollment growth at technical college and university systems.
- Charged postsecondary institutions to maintain focus on employability, job creation and partnerships with the business community.
- Introduced a public-private initiative ("Go Build Georgia") that will "round out our workforce development program by educating young people and the public at large about the skilled trades."
- Praised the strategic consolidation of universities.
- Proposed developing a world-class, public medical university.

## **Hawaii**

Gov. Neil Abercrombie (D)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 23, 2012

- Discussed the importance of an excellent early childhood and elementary education in contributing to high school graduation and college attendance.

## **Idaho**

Gov. Butch Otter (R)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 9, 2012

- Introduced the Idaho Global Entrepreneurial Mission (IGEM), a plan to foster the relationship between campuses and the business community to create more value on college campuses and create more jobs.
- Argued that the IGEM will require "...a significant cultural change in how our universities approach research and working with industry."
- Expressed appreciation for the cooperation of university presidents and the State Board of Education in the development of the IGEM
- Plans to fully fund enrollment growth and new facility use at state colleges, universities, and community colleges.
- Praised collaboration between North Idaho College, the College of Southern Idaho and the College of Western Idaho. Highlighted effort to defer funds to go to the fast-growing College of Western Idaho.
- Appropriated \$60 million to be set aside for reserve accounts for public education, including a new Higher Education Stabilization Fund budget

## **Illinois**

Gov. Pat Quinn (D)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) February 1, 2012

- Praised Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon for her community college report and set a goal of having at least 60 percent of Illinois residents with a college degree, associate's degree or career certificate by 2025.
- Commended state lawmakers for passing the Illinois DREAM Act
- Stressed the importance of access to higher education; stating that the legislature should invest funding into the MAP scholarship program.
- Quote: "The best economic tool a state can have is a strong, innovative education system. Jobs follow brainpower."

## **Indiana**

Gov. Mitch Daniels (R)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 11, 2012

- Called for ending "credit creep."
- Recognized the influx of college graduates to Indiana.
- Highlighted a program that allows students to graduate finish schooling in 11 years and "...get a head start on college costs with the dollars they earned through their hard work."

## **Iowa**

Gov. Terry Branstad (R)

[\*Condition of the State Address\*](#) January 10, 2012

- Called for increasing admission standards for teacher education programs
- Suggested that all high school juniors should take the college entrance exam, with the state covering the costs. Students should have the option of taking the work-skills readiness test.

## **Kansas**

Gov. Sam Brownback (R)

[\*State of State Address\*](#) January 11, 2012

- Higher education was not mentioned in the address.

## **Kentucky**

Gov. Steve Beshear (D)

[\*State of the Commonwealth Address\*](#) January 4, 2012

- Stressed career and technical education for the workforce
- Indicated that Kentucky will be the third state to identify and certify “Work Ready Communities”
- Highlighted dual credit agreements that allow students in high school to earn college credit including but not limited to those in career and technical education
- Called for merging the state’s two career and workforce development agencies and placing it under the authority of the state’s Department of Education

## **Louisiana**

Gov. Bobby Jindal (R)

State of the State Address

No address scheduled in 2012

## **Maine**

Gov. Paul LePage (R)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 24, 2012

- Emphasized having a skilled workforce to fill jobs and the importance of college and career readiness from high schools.
- Called for increased access to the state’s career and technical education system

## **Maryland**

Gov. Martin O’Malley (D)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) February 1, 2012

- State efforts to maintain college affordability have created conditions to allow businesses to create jobs
- Praised increases in STEM graduates
- Called for forging a partnership between state universities, private universities and state government with a goal of transferring new technologies from labs into the economy

## **Massachusetts**

Gov. Deval Patrick (D)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 23, 2012

- Discussed the role of community colleges in addressing the “skills gap.”
- Called for a unified, streamlined community college system tailored to local workforce needs
- Included a \$10 million budget increase for community colleges

## **Michigan**

Gov. Rick Snyder (R)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 18, 2012

- Stated that college readiness numbers are “unacceptable.”

## **Minnesota**

Gov. Mark Dayton (D)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) February 15, 2012

- Called for expanding Minnesota GI Bill benefits to all veterans.
- Lamented the 15 percent funding reduction to the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU)
- Stressed the importance of degree attainment for Minnesotans
- Hopes to see improvement in the quality of post-secondary teachers, classrooms and curricula; stating these are crucial factors for the success of students upon graduation.
- State and federal workforce training funds to be coordinated with higher education funding and programs.

## **Mississippi**

Gov. Phil Bryant (R)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 24, 2012

- Will introduce a package of measures called the “Mississippi Works Agenda.” The legislation will include a dual enrollment program for students to attend community college workforce training programs.
- Highlighted state efforts to raise minimum entrance standards for teachers

## **Missouri**

Gov. Jay Nixon (D)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 17, 2012

- Lauded the establishment of new higher education health science programs: Caring for Missourians; Training for Tomorrow; MoHealthWINS; and Nurse Training Initiative.
- Acknowledged that more students will need college degrees.
- Highlighted state college affordability efforts, including recent tuition freezes.
- Lauded record enrollment levels.
- Budget will provide stable funding for state student grant aid programs, including Bright Flight, Access Missouri and A+.
- Highlighted the A+ program, which covers tuition and fees at any public two-year college for students who are willing to work hard, play by the rules and give back to their communities.
- Praised the Innovation Campus at the University of Central Missouri, a program allowing students to enroll in college courses while in high school and then participate in high-impacted apprenticeship programs. Corporate partners underwrite tuition scholarships.
- Quote: “While universities in other states were increasing tuition by double digits, we froze tuition in 2009 and 2010 at all our public colleges and universities. Last year, I challenged our colleges to continue to hold down tuition. As a result, enrollment at our public colleges has surged. Over the past three years, we've added 31,000 students. That has set a new record each fall.”
- Quote: “So, to balance our budget in a way that protects our scholarships and academic programs, I am calling on all our colleges and universities to continue to look for more ways to cut overhead and administrative costs and run smarter, more efficient operations. While leaner, more efficient operations are essential, higher education must continue to adapt for the modern economy. Public colleges and universities must change their business models.”

## **Montana**

Gov. Brian Schweitzer (D)

No address scheduled in 2012

## **Nebraska**

Gov. Dave Heineman (R)

[State of the State Address](#) January 12, 2012

- Praised investment in the University of Nebraska's Innovation Campus, a public-private research and economic development venture.

## **Nevada**

Gov. Brian Sandoval (R)

State of the State address date yet to be determined (as of Feb. 28, 2012)

## **New Jersey**

Gov. Chris Christie (R)

[State of the State Address](#) January 17, 2012

- Called for restoring the state's earned income tax credit, a move he believes will help low-income residents pay for college.

## **New Hampshire**

Gov. John Lynch (D)

[State of the State Address](#) January 31, 2012

- Praised efforts to modernize facilities at colleges.
- Argued that the state will need more workers trained in STEM fields.
- Called for increased funding for higher education.
- Highlighted a partnership between the state and the University of New Hampshire to create the Green Launching Pad. The program works with start-up companies and entrepreneurs, and has launched 11 new businesses in New Hampshire.
- Criticized cuts in the tobacco tax, saying that the money would be better spent at community colleges and universities.
- Expressed non-support for legislation allowing guns on campus.
- Quote: "The most recent budget reduced state funding to our public colleges and universities by half. This is exactly the type of shortsighted reduction that undermines our economic strategy and jeopardizes our vitality for years to come."
- Quote: "These cuts hurt businesses trying to grow in New Hampshire and send the wrong signal to the companies we are trying to attract. An educated workforce is the core of our state's successful economic development strategy. For our economic future, we must make it a priority to restore funding for higher education."

## **New Mexico**

Gov. Susana Martinez (R)

[State of the State Address](#) January 17, 2012

- Outlined strategies to increase college readiness
- Quote: "There are also several things we can do to raise graduation rates and prepare our children for college, like assessing kids from the fourth to 10th grades to catch kids before they fall too far behind, paying for 10th graders to take the Pre-SAT, and expanding access to Advanced Placement classes for low-income students."

## **New York**

Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D)

[State of the State Address](#) January 4, 2012

- Put forth a plan to offer SUNY's 60 campuses the ability to compete for three \$20 million challenge grants to connect academic excellence with economic development, with \$10 million coming from the Executive Office and \$10 million from SUNY.

## **North Carolina**

Gov. Bev Perdue (D)

State of the State Address

No address scheduled in 2012

## **North Dakota**

Gov. Jack Dalrymple (R)

No address scheduled in 2012

## **Ohio**

Gov. John Kasich (R)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) February 7, 2012

- Called for community colleges to expedite student worker training.
- Called on universities have to do a better job connecting students with more career-oriented job propositions.
- Focused on higher education graduation rates.
- Highlighted the “capitol bill,” a collaborative effort by all university presidents that focuses on fixing the university system as a whole, not individual campuses.
- Suggested a shift in emphasis from enrollment to graduation
- Quote: “Community colleges should be like the emergency vehicle when there is a job. Put kids and students in there, including adults, and get them trained quickly so they can get the jobs that are available. So we have to match the community colleges with the business community and the forecasting. Sounds easy? Try it. We’ve been working on this for six months. This is a huge cultural change. And our universities, they’ve got to do a much better job of focusing kids on realistic job propositions. Do you know that we—well, I don’t want to get into necessarily the negative, but some of our graduation rates our four-year graduation rates, they’re just wrong.”
- Quote: “After four years, a 14 percent graduation rate? We can’t have that in Ohio. We need to graduate more kids and get them degrees, whether it’s a technical degree, a community college degree, or a university degree, because the more degrees they have the more job security they have, the more income they get, and the healthier we are as a state. And we need to put this together and let nothing stand in our way.”

## **Oklahoma**

Gov. Mary Fallin (R)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) February 6, 2012

- Called for information technology consolidation in higher education.
- Argued that the state must do a better job of encouraging residents to pursue higher levels of education and to complete more degree or certificate programs.
- Set a goal to increase the number of Oklahomans with degrees and certificates from 30,500 to 50,900.
- Praised energy savings at Oklahoma State University.
- Quote: “The Department of Education is implementing these reforms and performance measurements through initiatives designed to promote, as Superintendent Barresi says, ‘College, Career, and Citizen Readiness.’ Those three “Cs” are exactly what we should be promoting in Oklahoma, which is why I partnered with higher education officials to launch Oklahoma’s Complete College America Initiative.”
- Quote: “We know that a majority of the jobs created in the next decade will require either a college education or a career certificate from one of our Career Technology centers and that college graduates earn \$1 million more over their lifetime than high school graduates.”

## **Oregon**

Gov. John Kitzhaber (D)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 13, 2012

- Called for the state's higher education student enrollment capacity to be expanded.
- Praised efforts to streamline funding and governance between K-12 and postsecondary education.
- Reiterated state goal: 100 percent high school graduation by 2025, 80 percent participation in at least two years of postsecondary education and 40 percent earning a bachelor's degree or higher.
- Called for achievement compacts between the state and its education entities.
- Quote: "Achievement compacts replace the federal, compliance-based approach with partnership agreements between the state and our educational institutions – school districts, community colleges and universities. The compacts express a common commitment to improving outcomes, but tailor outcomes to unique circumstances of individual districts. And they allow for the comparison of results and progress between districts with comparable populations. The achievement compacts will begin to connect funding to outcomes so the state can become, over time, a smarter "investor" in education."
- Quote: "Let me be clear about the issue of funding. We will not achieve our ambitious goals for educational attainment without additional resources. As I have said before, our system of public education is underfunded at all levels. In higher education, for example, the capacity of our public universities will need to expand significantly to accommodate tens of thousands of additional graduates."

## **Pennsylvania**

Gov. Tom Corbett (R)

[\*Budget Address\*](#) February 7, 2012

- Called for a creating a Targeted Industry Certificate Program, which will provide increased grants for college and trade school students who are training for high-demand occupations.
- Created a higher education panel to "...make recommendations on how our universities can best serve the students..."
- Quote: "This also marks a moment when we need to open the discussion about how best to finance higher education in this state. We need to have a thorough, public and candid conversation about how best to deal with the spiraling costs and our own obligations."

## **Rhode Island**

Gov. Lincoln Chafee (I)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 31, 2012

- Referenced Pittsburgh's "meds and eds" initiative as a great example for economic growth and stability; he hopes to create a similar model for the state.
- Praised selected higher education leaders for collaboration taking place.

## **South Carolina**

Gov. Nikki Haley (R)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 18, 2012

- Plans to restructure workforce training programs.
- Focused on higher education funding formula, which would provide incentives to improve performance.
- Quote: "Finally, the Executive Budget calls for an evolution in the way we fund higher education. Our intention is twofold: reward the schools that well-serve our students while providing real motivation for those that need to improve."
- Quote: "I was a legislator. I remember the pressure that comes with the budget. I also know that there needs to be a better, more consistent way to fund higher education, one based on merit and accountability, not on which school is the most popular. By adopting a new accountability-based funding formula for higher education, we all win. The schools get stability and flexibility."



Legislators will no longer be faced with university lobbyists demanding dollar after dollar. And above all, South Carolina's parents and students will know that their education is fairly and appropriately funded."

### **South Dakota**

Gov. Dennis Daugaard (R)

[State of the State Address](#) January 11, 2012

- Outlined the South Dakota WINS (Workforce Initiatives) program proposal, which includes comprehensive plans for preparing children, training for skilled jobs, promoting rural health opportunities and recruiting workers.
- Proposed having 2,000 students take the National Career Readiness Certificate Test.
- Lauded the success of the tuition reimbursement program for doctors, dentists, and mid-level health care workers and called for expanded the program.

### **Tennessee**

Gov. Bill Haslam (R)

[State of the State Address](#) January 30, 2012

- Stressed that it is the government's duty to offer higher education programs and that higher education must be a state priority.
- Called for increased funding for higher education institutions' operating budgets and more money for need-based scholarships.
- Highlighted the need for increased college access, stating that the growing number of Tennessee students applying to state institutions must be accommodated. He noted that the budget passed this year should fully fund capital projects.
- Recommended that the Higher Education Commission directors report directly to the Governor.
- On the issue of college completion, called for restructuring the high school common core curriculum and urging institutions to graduate students by way of the "Complete College Program."
- Quote: "When 21 percent of our population has a degree, compared to a national average of 30 percent, and over half of the new jobs being created over the next decade will require degrees, encouraging more Tennesseans to aspire to higher education is one of our key roles as leaders of the state."
- Quote: "If we are going to be a state that attracts companies to locate and grow here; a state that keeps its best and brightest graduates here with good-paying, high-quality jobs for them here, there is nothing more important we can do than to focus on education."

### **Texas**

Gov. Rick Perry (R)

No address scheduled in 2012

### **Utah**

Gov. Gary Herbert (R)

[State of the State Address](#) January 25, 2012

- Addressed college readiness by suggesting that the state will provide additional online courses so that high school students can get a head start on their college education.
- Will expand [www.utahfutures.org](http://www.utahfutures.org) to provide students with online career counseling to ensure that the postsecondary education they receive will get them a job.
- Set a goal to have 66% of all Utah adults graduate with a postsecondary degree or certificate by 2020.
- Quote: "My message to students is simple: "If you want a good job, get a good education." Now, it is up to us—assembled here—to make sure they can!"

## **Vermont**

Gov. Peter Shumlin (D)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 5, 2012

- Plans to propose significant investments in higher education and toward dual enrollment in the state budget.

## **Virginia**

Gov. Bob McDonnell (R)

[\*State of the Commonwealth Address\*](#) January 11, 2012

- Proposed providing in-state tuition to members of the Virginia National Guard, with no restrictions regarding how long they have lived in the state.
- Argued that the state needs to fund the “Top Jobs” higher education legislation.
- Called for investments over \$200 million in new funding for colleges and universities.
- Will propose innovations to promote dual enrollment in high school and college.
- Proposed a new funding formula which will reward institutions that increase degree completions, improve graduation rates and expand practical research.
- Quote: “Additionally, I am proposing a dynamic new funding model for higher education that ties new general funds to achieving our statutory goals. Institutions will be rewarded for increasing the number of degrees, especially in STEM-H fields; improving graduation rates, and expanding practical research. It will also require colleges to be more accountable and efficient, by reprioritizing 5 percent of their current general fund dollars by 2014 to meet the key policy goals we enacted last year, including year round use of facilities and greater use of technology to leverage more programs and courses.”

## **Washington**

Gov. Chris Gregoire (D)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 10, 2012

- Recognized the 46 percent reduction to four-year higher education since the recession began and the 26 percent cut to community colleges.
- Plans to ask universities to partner with low-performing K-12 institutions.
- Called for a half-penny sales tax, with \$411 million of the estimated \$494 million in sales tax revenue going to K-12 and higher education.
- Quote: “We need to stop raising college tuition.”

## **West Virginia**

Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin (D)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 11, 2012

- Called on the state to bridge the gap between education, research and business development.

## **Wisconsin**

Gov. Scott Walker (R)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) January 25, 2012

- Higher education was not mentioned in the address.

## **Wyoming**

Gov. Matt Mead (R)

[\*State of the State Address\*](#) February 13, 2011

- Called for continuing to push STEM education.
- Will seek continued support for the University of Wyoming and Community Colleges and partnerships with the private sector.
- Quote: "We don't need to push all students into a four-year university. Career and technical education programs are perfectly viable alternatives."