CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF
Fighting for affordability, accountability, and equity in higher education
The Institute for College Access & Success is a trusted source of research, design, and advocacy for student-centered public policies.

At TICAS, we work hard to understand college opportunity by listening to students and carefully examining data and research.

We combine concrete policy recommendations with passionate, sophisticated advocacy.
Dear Friend,

For 15 years, TICAS has worked to help many more students earn a college degree and repay their loans, while protecting them from exploitation by low-quality and predatory colleges and lenders.

Students are at the heart of TICAS’ mission. Our research and analysis are informed by the perspectives of students and the college professionals who serve them. Their experiences have always been central to our specific, workable, and high-impact policy recommendations.

Partnerships are essential to our work. We cherish the relationships of trust that we have built over time with policymakers, researchers, students, and advocates. We are energized by working alongside passionate, committed allies toward policies that will change students’ futures.

We take pride in what TICAS has accomplished, even as we know that there is still much to be done. College degrees have never been more important to securing a family-supporting career and a better life. As a nation, we are still not meeting our basic obligation to provide an affordable, inclusive, and high-quality higher education to any student who wants to pursue one. Stark economic and racial divides remain. The stakes are high, and the challenges great.

James Kvaal
President

Richard Kazis
Chair
IN OUR 15 YEARS WE HAVE:

FOUGHT STUDENT DEBT

• Annually documented the rising tide of student debt and its implications for borrowers.
• Designed and helped enact the income-based repayment plans that now make loans more affordable for more than 8 million students.
• Shaped federal and state policies to relieve students harmed by college practices from unfair debt burdens.

SECURED LARGER SCHOLARSHIPS

• Served as a leading voice to reverse the decline in the value of Pell Grants, which has grown faster than inflation.
• Won over $200 million more annually for California’s lowest income students.
• Helped design leading proposals for a new federal-state partnership for inclusive, affordable public colleges.
• In our first year in Michigan, helped expand eligibility for scholarships that could be worth tens of millions of dollars a year.

HELPED STUDENTS CLAIM SCHOLARSHIPS AND MAKE COLLEGE FINANCING DECISIONS

• Led the charge to simplify student aid applications by using data the government already has, removing a key stumbling block on the road to college.
• Launched College-Insight.org, rated one of the 10 best college websites by U.S. News & World Report, to provide wide access to key data on college equity and student debt.
• Shaped tools that help students understand what college costs and how to pay for it, nationally and in California.
TO ACHIEVE OUR IMPACT, LAST YEAR WE:

• PUBLISHED 45 REPORTS AND OTHER PAPERS, WHICH WERE READ THOUSANDS OF TIMES, ON AVERAGE.

• EARNED MORE THAN 4,100 MEDIA CITATIONS.

• DELIVERED DOZENS OF INVITED TESTIMONIES, SPEECHES, BRIEFINGS, AND OTHER PUBLIC REMARKS.

• LED 19 COALITION LETTERS SIGNED BY A TOTAL OF OVER 600 ORGANIZATIONS.

• ENGAGED DIRECTLY WITH POLICYMAKERS ON OVER 500 SEPARATE MATTERS.

• SAW OUR IDEAS TO HALT STUDENT LOAN PAYMENTS DURING THE PANDEMIC, SIMPLIFY FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS, AND PROTECT CALIFORNIANS SIGNED INTO LAW.
WHAT’S NEXT:

• Fight to increase scholarships, make student loans simpler and fairer, and help distressed borrowers.
• Build equitable public colleges and universities across the country.
• Protect students and taxpayers from predatory practices.
• Reaffirm our commitment to equity in higher education and social justice in our daily work.

We thank our colleagues, partners, funders, and staff for 15 years and look forward to another 15 years and beyond.