

Message to FAPSC Members from FAPSC President, Joe Hardiman



Hello FAPSC members, colleagues, friends,

I wanted to share my thoughts on the direction that I am advocating we all should be following this year as participative and engaged FAPSC members. It is fairly straightforward “call to action.”

First, let’s all clearly understand that the specter of “Gainful Employment” is out there on our horizon and it appears to be a stormy day ahead. However, there are actions that each of us can take to potentially minimize the impact to our educational sector, most specifically, to the students that we serve.

We need Washington, and everyone who talks to our elected officials in Washington to be advocates for what we do for our students. We want them to understand our students and their educational needs. Our students are career changers, older than a normal high school graduate, career oriented and not fully severed by the current “traditional” postsecondary educational market. And yes, the socio-economics of this population is vastly different than that of the students and their families that are participating in “traditional” postsecondary education. Our students are “non-traditional” and in order to serve them best we are “non-traditional.” We are what our free market economy requires to support this large sector of the population of the United States of America that does not fit into the “traditional” postsecondary educational model, but yet requires postsecondary education to become skilled in their craft, personally satisfied and productive participants in our economy.

So my “call to action” is simple - get your local elected officials into your schools and have them meet your students. Pick up the phone or better, go to their office; invite them to come and tour your school and meet your students. BTW, it is worth mentioning how many students you have in your population and they vote. It should be our mission to assist all elected officials to observe and understand what we do and who we serve. Senators and Congressmen, state legislators, Mayors, Board of Education members, etc., etc. – get them into your schools and have them meet your students and share your student’s successes. Once you have scheduled the meetings please inform the FAPSC staff as they can provide you additional tools to ensure an effective visit. We are here to support you and we are all here to support each other for the benefit of our students.

Also, as campus leaders we all need to cascade the message far and wide that we don’t need more “rules” to be developed and administered from Washington regarding our sector’s educational outcomes to hamper our effectiveness at serving our students. However, if there are to be “rules” for the “non-traditional” postsecondary educational institutions, then let’s advocate for transparency and have the same “rules” applied to all educational institutions. What’s good for the goose is good for the gander.

Another avenue you can take to see this “call to action” through is volunteering in FAPSC. Volunteers are the cornerstone of this organization and there are a variety of ways you can help! Serve on FAPSC legislation committee; help FAPSC build a larger team to spread our message by volunteering on the member services committee; lend a hand and help FAPSC become your “go to provider” of continuing education. Serve on the continuing education/conference committee. FAPSC also has an assortment of committees tied to educational areas that could use experienced educators to help us create additional member value.

Simply put, strong leadership is the key to success. Without YOU--our volunteers, our members, our advocates--FAPSC would not have been here for 58 years. Let's continue for another 58 more; commit to being productive participants in FAPSC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joseph J. Hardiman". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Joe Hardiman
FAPSC President