



REAL SOLUTIONS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

ACCESS, AFFORDABILITY & OPPORTUNITY

The AFT's Real Solutions for Higher Education is a multiyear campaign to ensure higher education truly serves students and communities and to reclaim higher education as a public good.

OUR THREE PILLARS ARE:

- ◆ **Affordability.** Students should be able to pursue the educational path of their choice, without a lifetime of debt.
- ◆ **Access for all.** The economic opportunities postsecondary education provides should be available to everyone, regardless of geography or demography.
- ◆ **Academic freedom.** All members of the campus community should be able to safely engage in a free, uncensored exchange of ideas.

WE DO THIS BY:

- ◆ **Fighting for increased investment in higher education.** Every student has the right to learn and thrive without leaving college with an avalanche of debt. Public funding is necessary so that higher education is affordable and accessible to all students regardless of their ability to pay and no matter where they live.
- ◆ **Defending campus free speech and academic freedom.** The freedom to learn, teach and research, and to have our beliefs challenged and our horizons broadened, is fundamental to the strengthening of humanity and the development of democracy. The ability to engage in debate, discussion and protest—and to be free to disagree, while ensuring the safety of members of our campus communities—must be protected and defended. Stop hate, not debate.
- ◆ **Improving job security and ending contingent employment for academic workers.** Our colleges and universities must provide high-quality, sustainable jobs for all who work on campus. Faculty and staff must be recognized as vital members of the campus community; they must have the ability to participate in shared governance, be compensated fairly, and have real, meaningful job security.

At its best, higher education is transformational for students and communities. It provides access to knowledge that moves us toward a better, more dignified life for all. As extremists sow hate and fear to further divide us, higher education facilitates pluralism, innovation and opportunity.

We are building a movement to defend our democracy and secure our nation's future economic and social prosperity by fighting for what our students, faculty, staff and communities need to succeed: affordability, access and academic freedom.

Explore aft.org/RealSolutionsForHigherEd to find more information, read about success stories on the ground and learn how to move this campaign on your campus.

#RealSolutionsForHigherEd



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AFT, AFL-CIO | 555 New Jersey Ave. N.W. | Washington, DC 20001 | www.aft.org



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