

I have made educating and preparing our children for the 21st Century one of my top priorities. We need to ensure that our schools have the resources they need to provide our children with a quality education in a safe and healthy environment. If our nation wants to compete for the jobs of tomorrow, we must also make sure that all of our children have the doors of higher education open to them.

As a former member of the House Education and Labor Committee, I was proud to have played a direct role in passing groundbreaking new laws aimed at improving college affordability – including the College Cost Reduction Act, which boosted the Pell Grant program and cut the interest rates for the Stafford student loan program.

**In addition, I am working to:**

- Further increase access to higher education by expanding access to Pell Grants and other help to reduce the cost of an education.
- Ensure that our children and our local schools have resources they need to excel in the classroom by securing critical support for school assistance programs such as Title I and IDEA.
- Focus investment in our score science, technology, engineering and math skills that are critical to laying the foundation of our economic competitiveness.