

THE PELL INSTITUTE

for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education

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May we all remember that the time and the place of a man's life on earth are not the time and place of his body, but the meaning of his life is as vast, as creative, and as redemptive as his gifts, his times, and the passionate commitment of all his powers can make it.

-Howard Thurman

We at The Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education and the Council for the Opportunity in Education (COE) are deeply saddened by the death of Senator Claiborne Pell. Senator Pell, for whom The Pell Institute is named, "was a man of profound character, unprecedented public service and transformative vision," says COE President Dr. Arnold L. Mitchem. "His revolutionizing legislative leadership is sorely missed."

One of the most significant contributions of Senator Pell's exceptional career occurred in 1972, when President Nixon signed the Higher Education Act amendments creating college tuition subsidies for low-income students and expanding student loans and other financial aid. Indeed, Senator Pell served as the principal architect of the federal Basic Educational Opportunity Grant, which was renamed the Pell Grant Program in 1980 to honor the Rhode Island Senator's efforts.

Very few people in their lifetime have had the impact of Senator Pell, who enabled generations of Americans to afford and to achieve their dream of higher education. Remarkably, well over 100 million students have received the federal Pell Grant since its inception, all because of Senator Pell's critical belief that all American students should have the opportunity to achieve a college education.

We honor Senator Pell's life for his passion and commitment to helping those less fortunate than he whom he believed should have opportunities afforded by higher education. Senator Pell's principled and altruistic spirit is a rare character trait among legislative leaders today. He has left a significant legacy of responsibility and accountability for educators, TRIO and GEAR UP program directors, policy makers and institutions like The Pell Institute which actively and successfully support low-income, first-generation students to move up and beyond the K-16 educational pipeline.

The Pell Institute and COE extend our heartfelt condolences to Senator Pell's wife, Nuala Pell, and to the rest of the Pell family.

Sincerely,

Dr. Chandra Taylor Smith, Director