



Association of  
Independent Colleges & Universities  
of Pennsylvania

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Congressman Charles Dent Receives the Benjamin Franklin Medal for  
Distinguished Achievement on Behalf of Higher Education**

**Harrisburg, Mar. 27, 2018** – The Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania (AICUP) awarded Congressman Charles Dent the Benjamin Franklin Medal for Distinguished Achievement on behalf of Higher Education at its Annual Meeting in Hershey.

The Benjamin Franklin Medal, named for one of our nation’s and Pennsylvania’s earliest and most recognized leaders, is reserved for individuals who have made an extraordinary contribution to the ongoing vitality and effectiveness of Pennsylvania’s colleges and universities.

This year, AICUP is honoring Congressman Charlie Dent who has been a strong voice for higher education. During his time spent as a Pennsylvania Representative and then Senator, Congressman Dent was a champion for the Lehigh Valley private colleges and universities, and he was an advocate for student aid through his service on the board of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA). He understood the value of a quality post-secondary education and supported helping students afford their education by advocating for funding for the PHEAA Student Grants and Institutional Assistance Grants.

When Congressman Dent went to Washington, he continued to promote funding for higher education while serving on the House Appropriations Committee, and as a member of the Independent Colleges Congressional Caucus. He understands the importance of educational opportunity for lower-income Americans and continues to be their champion in Congress. As a co-chair of the “Tuesday Group,” a group of centrist Republican members of Congress, Congressman Dent has also been an important, leading voice for bipartisan compromise and governing during a period of increasing partisanship.

“Congressman Dent has played a major role in shaping policy that supports independent higher education in Pennsylvania and the rest of the nation,” AICUP President Don Francis said. “It was

an honor to present the Benjamin Franklin Medal for the Congressman's service on behalf of independent higher education.”

For more information, visit [www.aicup.org](http://www.aicup.org), or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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The Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania (AICUP), the only statewide organization that serves exclusively the interests of private higher education within the Commonwealth, exists to complement and support the work of campus leaders. With a membership of 91 private colleges and universities within Pennsylvania, the Association provides a variety of services and programs tailored specifically to the needs and situation of independent higher education. For a complete list of AICUP's member colleges and universities, visit [www.aicup.org](http://www.aicup.org).

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