1. **What does Sen. Heller think about this college debt? Is the cost of college too high or do Americans need to make better choices when it comes to education?**
   1. “As a father of four, I understand the financial burden of higher education—three of my children have experienced college, and my youngest is still enrolled.  I am also worried that young graduates are facing a particularly difficult economy,” said **Senator Dean Heller**.
2. **Is he satisfied with the Pay-as-You-Earn federal loan repayment plan or does he think there should be additional options to help offset debt?**
   1. “I have supported alterations to student loan programs in the past and am open to additional reforms. We need to create jobs for graduates, not increase their debt,” said **Senator Dean Heller**.
      1. **Background: Senator Heller has consistently supported low student loan interest rates:**
         1. Supported the [*Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act*](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?&congress=113&session=1&vote=00185)(Public Law No: 113-28), which lowered rates for all students from 6.8 percent to 3.86 percent for the coming year by tying student loan rates to the 10-year Treasury note.  It also capped the undergraduate rate so students will never have to pay more than 8.25 percent interest on their loans.
         2. Senator Heller cosponsored of the [*Interest Rate Reduction Act of 2012*](https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/senate-bill/2366?q=%7b%22search%22%3A%5b%22Interest+Rate+Reduction+Act+2012%22%5d%7d) (S. 2366).
         3. Senator Heller supported the [Highway Bill in 2012](https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/house-bill/6064?q=%7b%22search%22%3A%5b%22H.R.6064%22%5d%7d), which froze student loan interest rates.
         4. Senator Heller supported the[*College Cost Reduction Act*](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2007/roll613.xml) (H.R. 2669), which strengthens grants and other educational programs. The legislation also cuts interest rates in half on subsidized Stafford loans for undergraduate students. Senator Heller supported the bill in both the Education & Labor Committee and on the House floor. This legislation passed Congress and was signed into law.
         5. Senator Heller supported the [*College Student Relief Act*](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2007/roll032.xml) (H.R. 5), which cut interest rates in half on subsidized Stafford loans for undergraduate students. This passed the House with Senator Heller’s support.
3. **Does he think college education is important to finding a job and a recovering economy? If yes, does he have any ideas he can share about making college more affordable?**
   1. “Higher education opens the door to more job opportunities and professional choices, as well as increased earning power. Career and technical schools, on-the-job training, and apprenticeship opportunities will also help job seekers. These opportunities will close the ‘skills gap’ and connect jobseekers with employment opportunities in in-demand sectors,” said **Senator Dean Heller**.
      1. **Background:**
         1. Senator Heller supported the [*Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act*](https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/803?q=%7b%22search%22%3A%5b%22Workforce+Innovation+and+Opportunity+Act%22%5d%7d) (H.R. 803), which takes steps to modernize the workforce investment system, provide job training and workforce investment programs that are essential for getting Americans back to work. Floor speech: <http://bit.ly/UnK2Rr>
         2. Senators Heller (R-NV) and Joe Donnelly (D-IN) introduced the [*Skills Gap Strategy Act*](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=5cb4ecfa-09e3-4933-bd30-b47fee2e9b17), legislation that would help employers identify, train, and hire workers with the skills to fill existing job openings across the country.
         3. Senators Heller (R-NV), Kay Hagan (D-NC), and Joe Donnelly (D-IN) introduced the [*AMERICA Works Act*](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2013/3/senators-heller-hagan-donnelly-introduce-bipartisan-jobs-bill) to help address skills gap to ensure workers are trained for jobs that are available. The bill establishes a national industry-recognized credentialing system that ties the needs of American businesses to the curriculums of community colleges and job-training centers – matching the skills training with the needs of employers.