A shutdown’s effect on higher ed

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When we read or hear about the federal shutdown, we often think about how it affects the government. But what about higher education? With the government holding its breath, many college campuses have faced significant challenges. Let's explore how these shutdowns affect higher education.

When the government shut down, the National Institutes of Health had to stop all non-emergency clinical trials, which put the careers of thousands of scientists and patients on hold (Hiatt, 2018). This not only disrupted research funding but also halted the progress of crucial medical breakthroughs.

In addition to the National Institutes of Health, many other government-funded research institutions were impacted. For example, NASA was forced to cancel all non-emergency missions (United States Office of Management and Budget, 2013). This led to a significant loss of funding and prevented much-needed scientific advances.

The U.S. Department of Education also faced closures, which disrupted services such as student aid and career counseling (Healy, 2013). This caused delays in the processing of aid applications and prevented students from accessing the resources they needed to succeed.

The government's inability to pay its employees also posed a significant challenge. Government workers were furloughed, and the government was unable to make payroll (McCraney, 2013). This led to a loss of income for millions of Americans.

In conclusion, federal shutdowns have far-reaching effects on higher education. They disrupt research funding, halt clinical trials, and prevent students from accessing crucial resources. It's essential that we work to prevent government shutdowns and ensure the continued success of our nation's educational institutions.