

Provosts suggest initiatives for Strategic Master Plan

The Provosts of several of Washington's public baccalaureate institutions, who met with the Board July 26, have suggested the plan might include several key initiatives.

The Higher Education Coordinating Board is in the process of preparing a new 10-year master plan to guide public policy and investment in higher education. The plan must be completed by December 15, 2007, prior to being sent to the 2008 Legislature for review and approval.

The Provosts offered the following suggestions as the Board continues its work gathering information and ideas for the plan.

1. The state and higher education mount a comprehensive effort to improve student success at all levels of public education – early learning through post-graduate research.
2. The state and higher education should analyze the distribution of educational opportunities and fill the gaps by deciding which institutions and modes of delivery are needed and by developing a plan to put those institutions and services in place.

3. The state and higher education should develop performance agreements, continue efforts to assess accountability, create incentives and deregulation opportunities, and commit to funding at Global Challenge State (GCS) levels.
4. A comprehensive statewide effort is needed to bring technology up-to-date by addressing lifecycle assumptions for scientific equipment and computers and funding up-to-date technology for the K-20 Network and campus infrastructures.

Other suggestions were that higher education must do a better job achieving success among first-generation college students by developing an effective tracking system and a greater emphasis on student transfer from two- to four-year institutions.

State institutions also should play a more active and strategic role focusing on state economic needs by working closely with the Legislature, the Prosperity Partnership and other groups.

Members of the HECB, the Council of Presidents, and other key education and economic stakeholders will meet with the Senate Higher Education Committee at Washington State University in Pullman August 13 to begin this process.

Panel discusses statewide workforce development needs

Policy analysts from the HECB staff, the Center for Metropolitan Studies at Seattle University, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and the Workforce Training and Education Board conducted a panel session on statewide workforce development.

HECB Report

A report on workforce development being prepared by the HECB will:

- Examine the number and type of higher education and training credentials needed to meet current and future employer demand;
- Provide a more in-depth look at four to five specific high demand areas including computer science, health services, engineering, management and education;
- Analyze changing, emerging and new occupations for which there is likely to be high demand.

A draft of the report is scheduled to be completed by September 2007.

Center for Metropolitan Studies

Paul Sommers of the Center for Metropolitan Studies at Seattle University, said from 20 to 25 percent of the jobs in Kitsap, King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties can be classified as 'middle-wage' – paying at least \$17 per hour.

Sommers identified seven major middle-wage job clusters: aerospace; professional and business services; clean tech; logistics and international trade; construction/green building; health care; and tourism.

Industries supply large numbers of these middle-wage jobs – aerospace, health care, business, professional, and logistics/international trade. However, middle-wage jobs in aerospace are declining as the industry employs more individuals with bachelor's or advanced degrees.

Jobs in the seven clusters also create other middle-wage jobs indirectly. Between 2004 and 2014, more than 400,000 new jobs – direct and indirect – are expected in the seven clusters identified.

Future policy should include efforts to support middle-wage job clusters as part of an economic portfolio that also features high-tech, high-skill jobs, he said. > [See slide presentation](#)

SBCTC Workforce Analysis

Loretta Seppanen of the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges said about 45 percent of the students enrolled in community and technical colleges are seeking to prepare for a new job or are seeking an upgrade of their current job.

About 41 percent of CTC students intend to transfer and 11 percent are seeking basic skills such as English. The remaining three percent are engaged in some form of lifelong learning.

Younger adults enroll mostly with transfer goals; older adults enroll mostly with workforce goals, Seppanen said.

State population growth will lead to growing demand for workforce preparation. One-third of the state's population of 25- to 49-year-olds (1.4 million) has a high school education, or less.

Working adults need efficient pathways to employment with options for further education – and there is an increasing

need for basic education such as English and skills training, she said.

A goal is to develop an incentive system that rewards colleges for improvements in achievement across the spectrum of basic skills; college preparation; credits earned; and degree/certificate completion. ➤ [See presentation](#)

Prosperity Partnership

In addition, board members reviewed a proposal by the Puget Sound Regional Council's Prosperity Partnership that calls for an additional 8,000 degrees by 2010 in high-demand and high-impact fields. According to the partnership, Washington leads the nation in using bachelor's degrees, but ranks 36th in per capita production of bachelor's degrees. ➤ [See presentation](#)

Demographics workgroup compares Washington to Global Challenge States

Washington ranks relatively high when compared to Global Challenge States in on-time high school and college graduation rates, but falls to last place in maintaining the education "pipeline." According to the HECB demographics workgroup, only 16 percent of ninth graders went on to complete college in 2004.

And, while the state ranks high among all GCS states in the percentage of older students enrolled in postsecondary education, and in the number of residents with college degrees, the break in the pipeline signals a need to step up efforts to create a college-bound culture early on.

On a global scale, many countries are seeing an increase in the number of younger students earning degrees, while degree attainment in the United States

has remained static. Of significant concern is the need to educate a greater number of younger people to replace retiring baby boomers. ➤ [See presentation](#)

Board briefed on student financial aid programs

Student financial aid plays a key role in implementing state higher education policy – from boosting college access to addressing workforce needs.

During the meeting, HECB staff updated the board on state programs that provide grants, scholarships and work study opportunities for students.

Washington has a strong history of helping students from low-income families attend college, ranking 4th nationwide in providing need-based grants. In 2005-06, about 135,000 students – four out of every 10 – received need-based aid.

Comprising about 10 percent of all need-based financial aid available, the State Need Grant is Washington's largest program. Created in 1969, the SNG served about 66,200 students in 2006-07.

Other state financial aid programs include State Work Study and the Educational Opportunity Grant, along with a number of targeted scholarship programs.

Student loans account for most federal financial aid. While federal funds comprise about 63 percent of all student aid in Washington, about 77 percent of that amount is in the form of loans.

Staff also presented data about student debt, indicating the average amount borrowed per year is \$6,600. About 22,000 students borrowed more than \$8,000 in 2005-06, and the loan total for about 6,000 students topped \$15,000 that year.

In addition, statistics show an increase in the percentage of children aged 5-17 who live in low-income families.

➤ [See presentation.](#)

Diversity should be a key component of next master plan, board told

Washington's 2006 Strategic Master Plan must address the state's changing demographics if it is to help all students succeed, according to a panel on diversity that briefed the board.

With the population of underrepresented groups projected to increase significantly over the next two decades, Jan Yoshiwara, Director of Education Services for the SBCTC, warned that "if the state continues doing what it is currently doing, educational attainment levels will decline over time."

Two thirds of students who transfer from a community or technical college to a four-year institution and earn a bachelor's degree are the first in their family to do so, Yoshiwara said, so a smooth articulation and transfer system is critical to these students' success.

Yoshiwara recommended the board:

- Examine the higher education needs of students of color on a regional basis;
- Find ways for the institutions to reach out to communities of color; and
- Consider convening a "diversity summit" to follow up on HECB efforts thus far.

Note: On July 16, staff convened a group of diversity professionals, K-12 and higher education administrators and community

leaders from across the state to make recommendations on how to incorporate a "framework for diversity" in the 2008 master plan.

Sheila Edwards Lange, UW Vice Provost for Diversity and Vice President for Minority Affairs, said the master plan should address and support partnerships with K-12 as a way of improving teacher training, parental engagement, and college readiness. ➤ [See presentation](#)

New degree programs

During its July meeting, the board gave the go-ahead for the University of Washington and UW Bothell to offer several new degrees.

The UW Seattle has been approved to create a bachelor's degree in American Indian Studies and a master of science and Ph.D. in Earth and Space Sciences. UW Bothell will offer a bachelor's degree in Applied Computing.

GET Monthly Report

Total accounts opened since inception: **78,990**

Total for 2006-07 enrollment: **12,726**

Total units purchased: **15.5 million**

Total value of accounts: **\$96.2 million**
(includes fees and future payments expected)

Total number of students who have used benefits: **7,323**

Total amount paid out on contracts (student benefits used): **\$61 million**

Board visits Eastern Washington University for July meeting

Eastern Washington University was established in 1882 as the Benjamin P. Cheney Academy, serving 200 students. Today, the 300-acre campus serves 10,000 students – along with nearly 43,000 cups of coffee a year!

Located 17 miles southwest of Spokane, Eastern Washington University is the fastest growing public university in the state. The university has experienced 19 consecutive quarters of growth since 1997.

Eastern offers more than 100 fields of study, 10 master's degrees, four graduate certificates, 55 graduate programs of study, and an applied doctoral program of physical therapy. Degree programs also are offered in Bellevue, Everett, Kent, Seattle, Shoreline, Tacoma, Vancouver, and Yakima.



Sutton Hall at Eastern Washington University

In addition, Eastern's School of Social Work and Human Service offers a master's in social work and law dual degree program through a unique public-private partnership with Gonzaga University Law School.

Newsweek magazine named EWU a "Best Value for the Tuition Dollar."

The campus also is home to the state-of-the-art Washington State Patrol Regional Crime Lab, and is the only university in the nation that has a research facility in a national wildlife refuge.

EWU President Rodolfo Arévalo is proud of the fact that 55 percent of the freshman class will be the first in their families to earn a college degree. And once they graduate, EWU students are inclined to stick around – nearly two-thirds of Eastern's 65,000 alumni live and work in the state of Washington.



The Cheney Normal School Heritage Center on the EWU campus pays homage to the 20,000 teachers nationwide who have graduated from Eastern's College of Education.

Eastern offers a unique mix of degree programs on a campus setting that has grown from the original six buildings that comprise a National Historic District, to include the more contemporary applied science research complex.

Blending old and new is the Washington State Digital Archives building, which boasts 40,000 cubic feet of storage area for the archives of 640 governmental agencies, some dating back to 1883.

Board Meetings 2007

	Full Board	Advisory Council	Education Committee	Fiscal Committee	Financial Aid Committee
August 14-15	Talaris Center Seattle				
September 27	WSU Tri-Cities	√	Sept 10 1 – 3 p.m. Seattle	TBD	Sept 13 2 - 4 p.m. Teleconference HECB
October 25	WSU Vancouver		Oct 8 1 – 3 p.m. Seattle		Oct 11 2 - 4 p.m. Teleconference HECB
November 15	Highline Community College	√	Nov 7 1 – 3 p.m. Seattle		Nov 1 2 - 4 p.m. Teleconference HECB
December 13	State investment Board		Nov 26 1 – 3 p.m. Seattle		Nov 29 2 - 4 p.m. Teleconference HECB

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