

Board approves 2008 Strategic Master Plan

At its December 2007 meeting, following nearly a year of consultation, research, planning and discussions statewide, the Board approved and forwarded to the 2008 Legislature the new, 10-year Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education.

The plan proposes strategies to increase the number of traditional students and under-educated adult workers participating and succeeding in postsecondary education. For more information or to download a copy of the plan: [more info](#).

Report recommends increased state funding for innovation research

A report prepared by the HECB for the Washington Economic Development Commission recommends the state increase its support for innovation research to \$26 million per year by 2016, from its current level of \$1.2 million.

The report outlines a set of strategies that, if funded, would result in greater levels of innovation research and technology commercialization leading to expanded economic development and job creation statewide.

The state's two public research institutions – the University of Washington and Washington State University – would lead the effort by recruiting and building the infrastructure to support Innovation Research Teams (IRTs).

IRTs can be described best as concentrations of research faculty who are transforming their disciplines and who share a commitment to commercialization, entrepreneurship, and economic development.

Authorized by SHB 1091, passed by the 2007 Legislature, the IRT effort is one component of a larger statewide program to advance research-based economic development statewide.

The Legislature appropriated \$2.37 million to support the IRT effort in the 2008-09 biennium. The HECB, the UW and WSU are responsible for implementation, with policy direction coming from the economic development commission. The initial \$2.37 million appropriation will be used to recruit two new entrepreneurial research faculty, one at each institution.

Increased funding for the IRT effort would allow the UW and WSU to attract up to 16 new entrepreneurial researchers in the next decade, the report states, noting the highly competitive nature of such recruitment. The report is available on the [Economic Vitality](#) page of our Web site.

SHB 1091 also gives the economic development commission responsibility to designate additional state Innovation Partnership Zones (IPZs). There are currently 11 IPZs designated statewide.

IPZs are designed to support regional economic development needs by stimulating private investment, innovation, job creation and research commercialization. Designated zones receive priority access to sales and use tax revenues, infrastructure financing programs, and job training resources.

Passport to College program set to serve foster youth this year

Awards of up to \$6,900 from the new Passport to College Promise Scholarship program will be available as early as July 2008, according to a status report provided at the December Board meeting.

The scholarships are part of a comprehensive program designed to encourage current and former foster care youth to prepare for, attend, and successfully complete higher education.

Under the program, middle school foster youth will receive assistance in planning their high school curriculum; preparing for college tests; learning how to apply for admission and financial aid; and completing a transition plan prior to leaving foster care.

Institutional incentives

Higher education institutions are eligible for quarterly \$500 per-student incentive grants if they participate in the program. To qualify, institutions must agree to:

- Add a student self-disclosure question to their admissions applications or registration materials; and
- Have a “viable plan” for addressing the unique needs of former foster youth.

Key elements of the campus support framework include:

- Designated campus support staff
- A full financial aid package
- Strong and lasting institutional commitment to serve foster youth
- Support services available from DSHS social service staff and providers

Financial aid programs helped 132,000 in 2006-07

HECB staff delivered the annual report on student financial aid at the December meeting, noting that more than \$1.52 billion was provided to 132,000 students during 2006-07.

Aid sources included state appropriations, federal loans and grants, institutional support and private funds. About 77 percent of the aid distributed came in the form of loans

The HECB’s Student Financial Assistance division disbursed about \$199 million in state financial aid in 2006-07 to 77,000 students attending 99 public and private postsecondary institutions. More than 88 percent of this aid was in the form of grants and scholarships.

John Klacik, director of student financial assistance, reported that Washington provides a high level of per-capita financial aid compared to other states.

The National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP) ranks Washington fourth in the nation in terms of state student grant aid funding per capita,” Klacik said.

Above Washington are New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. In the same cluster as Washington are Indiana and Illinois – two states that have often been used for making peer comparisons. Among the Global Challenge States – new economy states with which Washington is frequently compared – Washington ranks second only to New Jersey.

Early childhood education focus of new UW degree

The Board approved two new degree programs submitted by the University of Washington:

- A Bachelor of Arts degree in early childhood and family studies in the College of Education; and
- A Master of Science in business in the UW Business School's Ph.D. program.

Degree fills UW gap

The new degree will fill a gap in the College of Education curriculum, which has not included an undergraduate major in early childhood development.

The degree will provide instruction in evidence-based practices for studying behavioral, social/cultural, and neurological influences on early childhood development.

The program was authorized to enroll 15 FTE students in the winter 2008 quarter and is expected to grow to 81 FTE students by its fourth year.

It will prepare students for careers and graduate studies in social services, mental health, education, child care, and research. Careers in education would not be certificated positions, because the program will not be accredited for teacher preparation.

MS added to UW Ph.D. program

A Master of Science in Business degree will be awarded to students as part of the UW Business School's Ph.D. program. It will not entail any expansion of or changes to the Ph.D. Those students enrolled in the doctoral program from the spring quarter 2007 forward will be awarded the Master of Science degree upon successful completion of their Ph.D. coursework and qualifying exam.

New CTC baccalaureate proposals being reviewed

The 2007 Legislature authorized two additional applied baccalaureate pilot programs for the community and technical colleges.

Three institutions have submitted notices of intent to offer baccalaureate programs to the SBCTC, which will recommend two in March 2008. These proposals will be subject to review and approval by the HECB prior to development and implementation.

Approved programs would enter a development phase in fall 2008 that would include review by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, curriculum development, and faculty hiring. The programs would enroll students in fall 2009.

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