

**Board, Advisory Council  
review draft of 2008  
strategic master plan;  
hear public comment**

During the November 15 Higher Education Coordinating Board meeting at Highline Community College, members of the Board and the HECB Advisory Council discussed the draft 2008 Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education, and heard public comment on the plan.

The document is based on months of discussion about the major issues and challenges facing higher education in Washington over the next decade. It incorporates data and ideas gleaned from a series of panel presentations and board discussions on the challenges facing education in Washington. The 10-year plan is due to the governor and Legislature on December 15.

Following are some of the key points that were discussed during the meeting:

- Include recommendations from the diversity panel, such as efforts to build diversity among faculty and staff.
- Consider commissioning a study to examine the cost/benefits of higher education.
- Define postsecondary education's role in local and regional P20 improvement.

**Enrollment - Affordability**

- Define 'electronic learning' to include outreach, classroom innovation, etc., and ensure a more strategic focus on technology.
- Reinforce the goal of increasing the number of graduates, and clarify anticipated costs.
- Support professional development for faculty-student advising.
- Consider a volunteer training pilot project for retiring baby boomers to leverage their skills in community and regional efforts.
- Charge OSPI with collecting transition and transfer data.
- Create a seamless statewide student advising system.
- Prioritize the need to educate more teachers to advanced levels of math and science proficiency.
- For students, the top three issues are: child care, advising, and support services.
- Consider a more strategic approach to financial aid, state funding and tuition; address how financial aid services will meet the emerging needs of the higher education system – including more at-risk students.

## Developing Economic Vitality

- Emphasize the need for institutions to address the state's economic needs.
- Encourage the state's colleges and universities to work more collaboratively with the Prosperity Partnership to inform students about career opportunities and develop degree pathways to support workforce needs.
- Address regional economic development needs.
- Develop a statewide network on research commercialization, and emphasize state development of a research infrastructure.
- Better illustrate the value of a liberal arts degree.

## Accountability

- Evaluate how a demonstration project might work regarding performance funding.

## Closing Comments

- A standard mathematics curriculum is needed throughout the state's high schools.
- A stronger statement is needed in support of teachers; one that recognizes teachers as the most important influence in the education process.
- Recommendations should be measurable.
- Careful attention is needed to develop balanced proposals.
- Focus on proposals that can be explained and implemented at the campus level.

[For more information](#)

## Board briefed on link between education and research

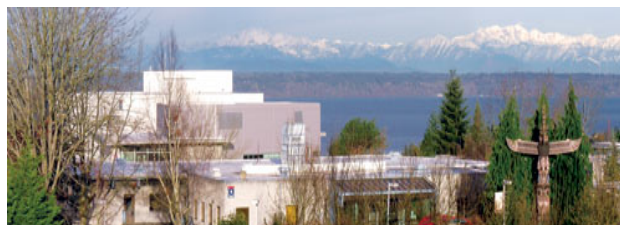
Mary Lidstrom, chemical engineering professor and vice provost for research at the University of Washington, spoke about the importance of research in economic development efforts. Lidstrom said in addition to enriching the classroom experience, research at the UW brings in \$1 billion annually – mostly from outside the state. She said the funding creates about 7,500 jobs, as well as thousands of spin-off jobs, companies and technologies.

In addition, a number of corporations sponsor innovative efforts within the university, which contributes to workforce development, innovation and discovery, and research-focused outreach programs.

Lidstrom also spoke about the importance of graduate education in supporting research efforts. She said strong graduate programs benefit the state by attracting students, who create innovation and often stay in the area – adding to the state's research capacity.

## Highline Community College

Founded 46 years ago as the first community college in King County, Highline Community College has become one of the state's largest institutions of higher education, with a current enrollment of about 15,000 students.



*Highline Community College overlooks Puget Sound*

The main campus sits on a wooded hillside in Des Moines, about 20 minutes south of Seattle. Highline also offers

classes at a campus in Federal Way and at the Marine Science and Technology Center at Redondo Beach, in addition to a number of other locations.

According to Larry Yok, vice president for administration, Highline is one of the most diverse colleges in the state, with about half its students from racial or ethnic minority backgrounds.

The college takes great pride in its cultural diversity policy, and in 2006, Highline was one of six Washington community colleges selected for the *Achieving the Dream* Initiative.



The national initiative aims to increasing the success of students traditionally underserved in higher education, such as low-income, minority, and first-generation college students.

About 42 percent of Highline students intend to transfer to a four-year institution, with more than 70 percent enrolling in either the UW or CWU.

Highline offers AA degrees as well as associate of applied science (AAS) degrees and/or certificates in about 40 professional-technical programs. Highline also offers pre-college, basic education, and short-term training programs.

Last year, Highline was one of 10 Washington two-year colleges named to participate in the state's Opportunity Grant Pilot Program. The program – which has since expanded to include all 34 community and technical colleges – helps low-income adults pay for college-related expenses that may not be covered by traditional financial aid.

For 2007-08, Highline is slated to receive \$432,000 to serve students in high-demand training programs in business, education, and health care that will lead to living-wage jobs in South King County.

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