Washington Student Achievement Council Update

Intercollege Relations Commission

April 11, 2013

The Washington Student Achievement Council consists of nine members:

- **Five citizens** appointed by the Governor, including one student.

- **Four education sector** representatives:
  - Two-year public colleges
  - Four-year baccalaureate institutions
  - Independent Colleges of Washington
  - Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

Agency staff led by and Executive Director support the work of the Council.

Washington Student Achievement Council

Created by the Legislature in 2012 with three primary responsibilities:

- **Propose goals** for increasing educational attainment in Washington.

- **Identify improvements** and innovations.

- **Promote benefits** of postsecondary education.

Washington Student Achievement Council

Key planning duties:

- **Develop a Ten-Year education Roadmap** for raising educational attainment and sustaining a viable, accountable, and effective education system.

- **Develop a Two-Year Strategic Action Plan** that identifies priorities to be addressed in the Roadmap.

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Critical Crossroads: A Call for Action

- Completed December 2012.

- Identified five areas for further analysis and action in the Roadmap:

    - **Readiness**

    - **Affordability**

    - **Institutional Capacity and Student Success**

    - **Capturing the Potential of Technology**

    - **Stable and Accountable Funding**

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Roadmap will address four Readiness issues:

- **Early Learning:** Family poverty hampers learning among pre-K children.

- **Remedial Education:** Many students need to repeat high school work in college.

- **Outreach and Support:** Preventing students from falling out of the K-20 pipeline.

- **Alignment:** Ensuring students get the courses they need for college admission.

American public higher education is founded on the principle of shared responsibility

- In 2000, annual tuition and fees at Washington's public four-year institutions was about 5% of the state's median income for a family of four.

- By 2012, it had more than doubled to 11%.

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Finding space for qualified students

- Students admitted to Washington's public colleges and universities are highly likely to graduate...

- ...Yet Washington ranks near the bottom among the 50 states in degree production.

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Today information technology is a core tool for educating

- eLearning

- Educating working adults and students in remote areas

- "Bundling"

- Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCs)

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Stable and accountable funding for higher education confronts these challenges today:

- Unlike K-12, higher education funding is discretionary.

- State funding largely depends upon property taxes, sales taxes, and other tax revenue.

- Tax revenue is not stable. Economic downturns can dramatically impact revenues.

- An unpredictable funding base complicates planning for expansion and enhancement.

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Recommendations in the Roadmap will be based on:

- Facts and evidence about what is being done today and needed improvements.

- Objective, empirical data and careful analysis.

- Evaluation and best practices within our state and beyond.

- Stakeholder input.

The Listening Tour

- In early 2012, the Council visited eight communities to gather feedback on Roadmap issues.

- Six themes emerged:
  - Collaboration and innovation happen at local level, but they must be enabled and encouraged statewide.
  - Support "systems thinking"
  - Change can have downsides
  - Be wary of "one size fits all" solutions
  - Consider socioeconomic factors in solutions
  - Funding and prioritization will be critical

- See full listening tour summary at www.wsac.wa.gov/PlanningAndResearch/Roadmap/Listening

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Roadmap Timetable

- Council will hear additional reports from Roadmap work groups in May, July, and September.

- Council will adopt final Roadmap and deliver to the Governor and Legislature in late November.

Stay current on Council work and contact us

Subscribe to news updates:
www.wsac.wa.gov/news

Visit the Roadmap website:
www.wsac.wa.gov/PlanningAndResearch/Roadmap

Give us your feedback:
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