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.
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.
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.
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
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%.
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.
Today information technology is a core tool for educating

- eLearning
- Educating working adults and students in remote areas
- “Bundling”
- Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCs)
Challenge 5: Funding

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.
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](http://www.wsac.wa.gov/PlanningAndResearch/Roadmap/Listening)
Next Steps

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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