

# Educational Attainment for All: Diversity and Equity in Washington Higher Education

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# Recommendations for Policy Change and Action

- 1. Pay more statewide attention to changing demographics and their impact on college enrollment.***

The Council should annually convene diversity staff and coalitions from the different educational sectors.

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## ***2. Identify and address gaps in institutional capacity to deliver best practices.***

Many of the best practices to support students in college require implementation of institution-specific initiatives.

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## ***3. Increase disaggregation of data for diverse populations.***

In gathering information for this report, the research team encountered data gaps on English language learners, students with disabilities, first generation students, former foster youth, Queer students and the influence of membership in multiple at-risk student populations.

# Recommendations for Policy Change and Action

## ***4. Work toward consistency of data definitions across the entire K-20 educational system in Washington.***

The Council should convene the data team from the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee (EOGOAC) and the Education Research and Data Center (ERDC) to ensure that all groups are using consistent data definitions for state purposes and are transparent about data definitions used for other reporting purposes (i.e. federal grants or private funding agencies.)

# Recommendations for Policy Change and Action

- 5. Enhance the ability of Washington's educational systems to view their own data, utilize key indicators and track individual students as they proceed through transitions from high school to college and among postsecondary institutions.***

The ERDC has already started this critical work and the Council should advocate for continued support of this activity. Key indicator data will allow institutions to benchmark student degree outcomes with others in the State and across the nation.

# Recommendations for Policy Change and Action

## ***6. Keep college accessible and affordable for WA residents.***

Low-income and first generation families are especially sensitive to these threats and are more likely to limit college enrollment based on perceptions about cost.

# Recommendations for Policy Change and Action

## ***7. Clarify roles and responsibilities of educational sectors, community based organizations, business and government in contributing to degree production.***

The Council should convene a task force of K-12 educators, higher education leaders, industry advocates and state policymakers to identify what each entity is doing now to contribute to degree production and what opportunities exist for collaboration and partnerships.

# Recommendations for Policy Change and Action

## ***8. Establish and maintain a web-based college access and success tool for students, parents, and educators.***

The Council should commission the development of the tool that focuses on navigating secondary and post-secondary pathways to and through college. The web-based tool could be complemented by a phone service of qualified persons and/or webinars to present information and answer questions. It could also be enriched by a social media network/community and proactive communication strategies.