

House committee briefed on HECB initiative to study alignment of higher ed resources

A new initiative by the Higher Education Coordinating Board will examine how the state's higher education resources can be organized to best meet future needs for trained and educated workers.

HECB Executive Director Ann Daley told the House Higher Education Committee on Friday that the new study will bring together members of the higher education community to examine how the gap between existing degree production and future demand for college-educated workers can be narrowed most efficiently.

A key concept will be "expand on demand," in which future higher education capacity would be based on actual demand increases, rather than demand projections.

"Our state's higher education investment can be an enduring stimulus for our future economy, but we need to re-examine how existing and planned higher education resources can be best organized to achieve that goal," Daley said. [Read more.](#)

Companion tuition bill introduced in Senate

A companion bill to earlier House legislation has been introduced in the Senate that would preserve the status quo on tuition setting authority afforded to public colleges and universities.

Like HB 1235, the newly introduced SB 5734 would authorize the governing boards of public baccalaureate institutions and the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) to continue setting tuition for all students *except resident undergraduates* in 2009-10 and subsequent years. The authority is scheduled to sunset at the end of the current academic year.

Opportunity internship bill gets House hearing

A bill that would enable employers in high-demand occupations to start grooming future workers while they're still in high school has been introduced in the House.

HB 1355 would create the Opportunity Internship Program to provide outreach, paid internships, counseling, up to one year of financial aid through the State Need Grant, and the promise of a job interview for students who enroll in high-employer-demand programs of study.

Employers who offer internships would receive tax breaks, and local consortia engaged in building the programs would receive a \$2,000 payment for each student who eventually completes a required program of study and works in the field for at least six months.

At a hearing this week, a representative of the HECB supported the bill and said the agency was ready to help fine tune some provisions.

A weekly report on higher education during the 2009 Legislative Session



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House, Senate committees briefed on state financial aid programs

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Legislative committees hear briefings on state financial aid

The Legislature's two higher education policy committees this week held work sessions on state financial aid programs, including service levels and the impact of the Governor's budget proposals on state aid.

[See more financial aid news](#)

Policy and student profile information for the state's broad access, early outreach programs, targeted workforce, and merit programs also were discussed.

In the House, John Klacik, the HECB's director of student financial assistance, told the Higher Education Committee that 94 percent of last year's state student financial aid was allocated to two broad access programs—State Need Grant and State Work Study. The remainder was directed to targeted workforce and merit-based programs, he said.

In a work session by the Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee, Rachele Sharpe, associate director of student financial assistance, discussed recent federal legislation impacting federal financial aid and veterans' benefits, and information about Pell Grant and federal student loans.

Betty Lochner, director of the Guaranteed Education Tuition Program, discussed the relationship between tuition increases and GET.

Degree gap in high-demand fields growing, HECB reports

The gap between current supply and forecast future demand for baccalaureate and graduate degrees has grown over the last two years for several occupations, including computer science occupations and engineers.

The Higher Education Coordinating Board presented the analysis at a work session Tuesday on high-demand enrollment planning with the House Higher Education Committee. The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC), and Workforce Training and Education

Coordinating Board also presented at the work session.

The SBCTC discussed its competitive high-demand enrollment program, which provides funding for the expansion of high employer demand programs of study. They noted how the program's emphasis had evolved from information technology in 2000, when the program began, to health care, construction, and most recently, STEM fields. They also explained how state high-demand funding has leveraged additional federal and institutional investment.

The HECB described how new program review and approval is linked to employer, student, and community demand, and presented a long list of newly approved programs in high-demand fields.

Additional information will be provided in a report the three agencies plan to jointly release in February.

Students ask legislators to keep lid on tuition

Students representing many of the state's community, technical and four-year colleges appeared before legislative committees this week to urge the lawmakers to keep a lid on tuition increases and to offset tuition hikes with increases in financial aid to the extent possible.

"Tuition is the number one priority of students," Vanessa Pantley, a student at Bellevue Community College and member of the Washington Student Lobby, told the Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee on Wednesday.

Students and members of the Senate committee discussed the options of a high-tuition, high-financial aid system—which helps offset the sting of tuition increases for lower-income students—versus a system that keeps tuition as low as possible for everyone. Washington's tuition rates generally are higher than other Western states, but competitive when compared with national averages and other Global Challenge States.

Next week's schedule:

- **Tuesday Feb. 3:** House Higher Education Committee. Public hearings HB 1336, 1353, 1423, 1643. 10 a.m., House Hearing Room D.
- **Tuesday Feb. 3:** Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee. Public hearings SB 5048, 5316, 5317, SCR 8404, SB 5555, 5044, 5276, 5502. 10 a.m., Senate Hearing room 3.
- **Tuesday Feb. 3:** House Ways & Means. Public hearings HB 1545, ESSB 5460.
- **Wednesday Feb. 4:** House Higher Education Committee. Public hearings HB 1446, 1474, 1487, HCR 4403. 1:30 p.m., House Hearing Room D.
- **Wednesday Feb. 4:** Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee. Work Session: Capital budget briefing; UW-North; Kitsap higher education needs. 3:30 p.m., Senate Hearing Room 3.
- **Friday Feb. 6:** House Higher Education Committee. Work Session: Evaluating college access and affordability. Public hearings: HB 1235, 1428, 1594. 8 a.m., House Hearing Room D.
- **Friday Feb. 6:** Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee. Public hearings: SB 5077, 5575, 5625, 5106. 1:30 p.m., Senate Hearing Room 3.

House higher education bills:

- [HB 1025](#) - Requiring disclosure of certain information relating to higher education course materials.
- [HB 1096](#) - Enhancing small business participation in state purchasing.
- [HB 1129](#) - Establishing a lifelong learning account steering committee.
- [HB 1130](#) - Convening a workgroup to develop a single, coordinated student access portal for college information.
- [HB 1156](#) - Creating a preference in the alternative route certification program for veterans and National Guard members.
- [HB 1216](#) - Adopting a 2009-2011 capital budget.
- [HB 1235](#) - Making certain current higher education tuition-setting practices permanent.
- [HB 1243](#) - Making 2009 supplemental operating appropriations.
- [HB 1244](#) - Making 2009-2011 operating appropriations.
- [HB 1312](#) - Eliminating the exclusive authority of the University of Washington and Washington State University to offer certain engineering courses.
- [HB 1323](#) - Providing for coordination of workforce and economic development.

- [HB 1336](#) - Discouraging pre-college courses at public four-year institutions of higher education.
- [HB 1341](#) - Motivating students through incentives to pursue postsecondary education by eliminating statewide assessments as a high school graduation requirement.
- [HB 1353](#) - Regarding employment opportunities at institutions of higher education.
- [HB 1355](#) - Establishing the opportunity internship program for high school students.
- [HB 1394](#) - Changing the timeline for the state comprehensive plan for workforce training and education.
- [HB 1395](#) - Clarifying terms for workforce and economic development.
- [HB 1428](#) - Establishing the field of dreams program.
- [HB 1446](#) - Requiring the Higher Education Coordinating Board to develop a grant program to encourage training for students studying in the medical field to work with individuals with disabilities.
- [HB 1452](#) - Concerning economic stimulus.
- [HB 1466](#) - Regarding student fees, charges and assessments.
- [HB 1467](#) - Establishing the University of Washington Snohomish County branch campus.
- [HB 1474](#) - Changing border county opportunity program provisions.
- [HB 1487](#) - Regarding resident student classification.
- [HB 1497](#) - Eliminating boards and commissions.
- [HB 1545](#) - Authorizing the Higher Education Coordinating Board to offer higher education annuities and retirement income plans.
- [HB 1594](#) - Creating the environmental cleanup opportunity grant program.
- [HB 1643](#) - Regarding harassment, intimidation and bullying policies and practices at regional universities.
- [HB 1671](#) - Regarding higher education accountability.
- [HB 1672](#) - Requiring an annual college learning assessment.
- [HB 1673](#) - Requiring development of a consumer report card with information about institutions of higher education.
- [HB 1674](#) - Improving the effectiveness and efficiency of institutions of higher education.
- [HB 1675](#) - Changing the work experience provisions of the alternative route partnership grant program.

- [HB 1694](#) – Addressing fiscal matters for the 2007-2009 biennium.
- [HB 1706](#) – Expanding resident student eligibility for purposes of the state need grant program.
- [HCR 4403](#) - Providing for the 2008-2018 state comprehensive plan for workforce training.

Senate higher education bills:

- [SB 5001](#) - Eliminating the matching fund requirement for the American Indian endowed scholarship program.
- [SB 5007](#) - Allowing public technical colleges to offer associate transfer degrees.
- [SB 5043](#) - Convening a work group to develop a single, coordinated student access portal for college information.
- [SB 5044](#) - Changing work study provisions
- [SB 5048](#) - Providing for coordination of workforce and economic development.
- [SB 5077](#) - Creating the historically Black college fund pilot project.
- [SB 5078](#) - Authorizing the University of Washington to set business fees.
- [SB 5088](#) - Regarding salaries for adjunct faculty.
- [SB 5089](#) - Requiring an ethical audit of the personnel management systems at community and technical colleges.
- [SB 5106](#) - Creating an independent four-year polytechnical college and an investment district to finance it.
- [SB 5173](#) - Authorizing the regional universities to confer honorary doctorate degrees.
- [SB 5174](#) - Providing an incentive to improve the on-time graduation rates at institutions of higher education.
- [SB 5175](#) - Changing the Washington college promise scholarship program.
- [SB 5176](#) - Creating a bi-state partnership for teachers of children with visual impairments.
- [SB 5177](#) - Creating a global Asia institute within the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies.
- [SB 5188](#) - Requiring school districts to provide remedial postsecondary education or to pay for the cost.
- [SB 5222](#) - Adopting a 2009-2011 capital budget.
- [SB 5237](#) - Requiring the development of three-year baccalaureate programs.
- [SB 5260](#) - Motivating students through incentives to pursue postsecondary education by eliminating statewide assessments as a high school graduation requirement.
- [SB 5264](#) - Providing for academic employee salary increments for community and technical colleges.
- [SB 5276](#) - Eliminating the exclusive authority of the University of Washington and Washington State University to offer certain engineering courses.
- [SB 5308](#) - Authorizing the higher education coordinating board to offer higher education annuities and retirement income plans.
- [SB 5316](#) - Changing the timeline for the state comprehensive plan for workforce training and education.
- [SB 5317](#) - Clarifying the terms for workforce and economic development.
- [SB 5376](#) - Requiring the Higher Education Coordinating Board to develop a grant program to encourage training for students studying in the medical field to work with individuals with disabilities.
- [SB 5405](#) – Regarding resident student classification.
- [SB 5407](#) – Making 2009 supplemental operating appropriations.
- [SB 5410](#) – Regarding the digital learning commons.
- [SB 5460](#) – Reducing the administrative cost of state government during the 2007-2009 and 2009-2022 fiscal biennia.
- [SB 5502](#) – Establishing the primary care physician conditional tuition waiver program.
- [SB 5553](#) – Promoting economic development through promoting innovation and the commercialization of technologies.
- [SB 5554](#) – Regarding the job skills program.
- [SB 5555](#) – Establishing a lifelong learning account steering committee.
- [SB 5575](#) – Creating Bellevue College.
- [SB 5588](#) – Administering, suspending, and eliminating boards and commissions.
- [SB 5600](#) – Making 2009-2011 operating appropriations.
- [SB 5604](#) – Concerning economic stimulus.
- [SB 5606](#) – Creating the Washington investment in student excellence scholarship program.
- [SB 5625](#) – Creating a state college in Snohomish County.
- [SCR 8403](#) - Creating a joint select committee concerning Latino accessibility to higher education.