

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 23, 2012

'Next steps' for higher education topic for HECB meeting Feb. 29 in Tumwater

OLYMPIA – The HECB and institutional stakeholders recently completed an update to the state's 10-year master plan for higher education. The update outlined seven 'next steps' to increase access to affordable higher education—initiatives focused on improving higher education performance and expanding capacity.

At its upcoming regular meeting Feb. 29, at the Educational Service District 113 office in Tumwater, the board will hear a staff presentation on a proposed system to monitor state and institutional progress toward achieving the seven next steps.

The monitoring system would include a simple dashboard display available on the HECB website to report progress on statewide degree production and other key metrics. The dashboard would promote better understanding of important issues facing the state and its institutions, and also would help facilitate the transition to a new higher education coordinating agency set for July 1, said Jan Ignash, deputy director for policy, planning and research.

Even though the recession has slowed progress toward meeting the 2008 master plan goals, the advisory committee that worked on the update last year strongly recommended against retreating from them. The 2012 update stressed the importance of continued monitoring, gap analysis, and progress reports.

The three main goals of the 2008 master plan are raising educational attainment to create prosperity and opportunity, promoting economic growth and innovation, and monitoring and funding higher education for results.

The seven next steps for achieving those goals are:

- Increase capacity for higher education to serve more students.
- Maintain commitment to access for low-income students.
- Build on efforts to increase transition and completion.
- Focus a simplified accountability funding initiative on completions, aligning incentives with state goals for educational attainment while also recognizing institutional and sector missions.
- Define and develop K-12 through postsecondary program pathways, especially in high employer demand majors and careers.
- Promote acceleration strategies for both high school students and adult learners through Launch Year, Prior Learning Assessment, CTC Alternate Math Pathway, I-BEST, and pre-college reform.
- Maintain commitment to the Strategic Master Plan's original 2008 degree goals.

Also at the Feb. 29 meeting, the Board will hear an industry and higher education panel discuss current programs and plans for expanding aerospace training and certification in the state. Although aerospace training programs have expanded in the state and a new aerospace student loan program is available to help, demand for workers with key industry skills continues to exceed the state's ability to supply such trained workers.

The panel discussion will address factors driving rising demand for skilled and educated workers, crucial gaps in the higher education supply-and-demand chain, and Washington's response to the rising demand so far.

Briefing materials for the meeting are available at:
www.hecb.wa.gov/AboutTheHECB/MeetingMaterials.

Who: Higher Education Coordinating Board

What: Regular Meeting – February 29, 2012

**Where: ESD 113, Capital Event Center, Thurston Room
6005 Tye Drive SW, Tumwater, WA**

9 a.m. Welcome and Introductions

- *Ethelda Burke, Chair, Higher Education Coordinating Board*
- *Bill Keim, Superintendent, ESD 113*

9:15 a.m. Consent Agenda

Approval of January 2012 Meeting Minutes

New Degree Program for Approval

- **PhD in International Studies, University of Washington Seattle**
Resolution 12-02

9:20 a.m. Report of the Executive Director/2012 Legislative Session Update

Don Bennett will present an update on agency programs and activities geared toward implementing the Strategic Master Plan. He also will provide an update on higher education bills being considered by the 2012 Legislature and brief the Board on the status of the supplemental budget and the recent economic and revenue forecast.

Implementation of Strategic Master Plan

9:40 a.m. Strategic Master Plan Metrics – Status Report

10 a.m. Jefferson Accelerated Math & Science Program (JAMS)

- *Nancy Faaren, Assistant Superintendent, Olympia School District*
- *Michael Cimino, Principal, Jefferson Middle School*

JAMS is a rigorous, integrated middle school math and science program that engages students in problem-solving through technology and engineering design

challenges. It is one example of innovative initiatives that prepare and encourage K-12 students for transitioning to postsecondary education with a focus on STEM degrees.

11 a.m. Aerospace Panel Presentation

- *Dante Leon, Dean, Automotive/Technical Programs, Renton Technical College*
- *Stan Sorscher, Labor Representative, Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace (SPEEA)*
- *Raphael Madison, Washington Aerospace Training & Research Center (WATR)*
- *David Bahr, Professor and Director, School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering, Washington State University*

Noon Public Comment

Adjournment

***Public Comment:** A sign-in sheet is provided for public comment on any of the Board items.*

***Meeting Accommodation:** Persons who require special accommodation for attendance must call the HECB at 360-753-7800 as soon as possible before the meeting.*

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