

Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2017

Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
Seattle, Washington

Members attending:

Maud Daudon, Jan Yoshiwara, Karen Lee (phone), Michaela Miller, Paul Francis, Peder Digre, Susana Reyes, and Violet Boyer

Staff attending:

Michael Meotti, Rachele Sharpe, Aaron Wyatt, Daryl Monear, Maddy Thompson, Marc Webster, Randy Spaulding Crystal Hall, and Kristin Ritter.

The meeting was called to order at 8:38 a.m. by Chair Maud Daudon.

Consent Agenda

Motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

September 8, 2017, Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented. Karen Lee and Peder Digre abstained.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

The Council introduced Peder Digre (Student Representative) and Jan Yoshiwara (State Board for Community and Technical Colleges) as the newest members.

Executive Director's Update

Michael Meotti, Executive Director

The December 5 Council retreat will primarily focus on the Roadmap goals. The Council will discuss the strategic development of action plans and review progress on adult reengagement framework and the anticipated regional meetings. The framework and regional outreach, both supported by grant funds, align with the Council's mission to advance educational attainment.

Regional Workforce Needs

Randy Spaulding, Director of Academic Affairs and Policy

The Council is developing an assessment process to analyze the need of postsecondary education in Washington, taking into account community, employer, and student needs. The Council reviewed estimated annual openings by education level and additional metrics stemming from the 2017 assessment.

Demarée K. Michelau, Ph.D., Vice President of Policy Analysis and Research, WICHE
Christina Sedney, M.P.P., Policy Analyst, WICHE

WICHE staff provided an overview of the organization, its approach, and methodology. The goal of the project is to gain insight into emerging economic trends, employee and employer demographics and needs, and additional indicators related to regional educational needs. WICHE's largely qualitative research included information gathered through focus groups, key informant interviews, and online surveys.

Discussion:

Discussion focused on the importance of soft skills, the need to provide students with clear options for education and skills training after high school, the challenge of language barriers for some citizens, and the continued work of connecting K-12 to higher ed pathways for greater success. Balancing each of these opportunities and challenges is vital for forward progress.

Jenée Myers Twitchell, Special Advisor to the Deans for Postsecondary Success & Advancement, University of Washington

The Council reviewed an analysis of education and training needs for King, Snohomish, and Pierce counties. The analysis included common themes and key differences, including institutional and regional capacity, equity gaps, and demand and supply gaps.

Discussion:

Members discussed opportunities to ensure that local students, especially underserved students, are prepared for, access, and complete credentials in fields that show employer demand and provide living wages. Further discussion topics included student pathways, student loans and economic returns, performance funding versus incremental funding for high-demand degree programs, and capacity challenges.

Pave the Way Conference, October 19, 2017
Rachelle Sharpe, Deputy Executive Director

The Pave the Way Conference will take place in Ellensburg on Thursday, October 19. Speakers include Lieutenant Governor Cyrus Habib, Maria Chavez, Aaron Reader, Jorge L. Baron, and our very own Jeff Charbonneau. Register at <http://www.wsac.wa.gov/pavetheway>.

Progress on Roadmap Goals
Maddy Thompson, Director of Policy and Government Relations

The Roadmap Progress Report, which includes an analysis of leading indicator metrics and progress on core measures, will be delivered in early December. Although some gains have been made, the state is

not on track to meet its attainment goals by 2023. Improving readiness and affordability will help to increase completion and meet workforce demands. The report will also address the consequences of not meeting the goals.

Discussion:

The Council discussed the possibility of clarifying or adding additional information on capacity and the potential to advance programs that could improve educational attainment without the need for legislation.

State Financial Aid Update

Marc Webster, Senior Fiscal Policy Advisor

The Council reviewed current affordability metrics and the State Need Grant's role in making college affordable. The affordability legislative agenda is centered on State Work Study, College Bound Scholarship, and State Need Grant.

Discussion:

Members commended the work study program as being a great opportunity for students to learn in a field of study. There is also potential opportunity to use the positive experiences of work study employers and students during legislative session to advocate for the program. Finally, the Council talked about ways to ensure school districts promote College Bound Scholarship sign ups among students and families.

Sector Member Legislative Agendas

Paul Francis, Executive Director, Council of Presidents

Violet Boyer, President & CEO, Independent Colleges of Washington

Jan Yoshiwara, Executive Director, State Board for Community & Technical Colleges

Michaela Miller, Deputy Superintendent, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

Council members representing the sectors presented their sector's policy and budget requests for the 2018 Legislative Session, highlighting priorities that advance the state's educational attainment goals and align with the Roadmap and the 2017-19 Strategic Action Plan. The Council discussed opportunities for further collaboration.

Public Comment:

Heidi Bennett, Parent advocate and National Representative of PTA. See addendum for comment.

Juliette Schindler Kelly, Director, Government Relations and Advocacy for College Success Foundation, stated that Senator Palumbo is asking for input on priorities and protecting education rights for undocumented students in the areas of affordability, student rights, and workforce.

Chair Maud Daudon adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Addendum

Testimony at the WSAC Meeting 10/12/17

Thank you for continuing to present engaging and informative content on student achievement.

I'm a parent advocate, working most closely with WA State PTA and the parent of two recent high school graduates. One did Running Start, earned his AA, and after 3 applications did transfer to the UW and will graduate this June. My other graduate is at Univ. of Victoria, BC where internships are required for graduation! And 80% of kids who do internships get job offers so it's a win/win scenario and something to consider for WA universities.

For many years I championed fully funding K-12 and have shifted my efforts to high school and post-secondary/higher education. For the last 4 years, working through WA State PTA I submitted "Increased access and affordability to High Ed" on the WA State PTA Legislative short-term platform. I'm now submitting two more legislative issues for their platform on "Dual Credit Equity & Support" and "Career Connected Learning, CTE and STEM". I'm also submitting a resolution on "Increased Access to higher ed/post-secondary degrees and certificates". These were all submitted in May and will be voted on by WA State PTA in 2 weeks.

Much of what is in these issues and the resolution dovetail with WSAC more than any other group and thank you for all the great information and resources that you provide. I do these issues and resolutions both as a teacher moment for Parents as they usually are not aware of current workforce landscape - the forecasts, opportunities, shortages, options and cost realities. Also to advocate for these issues at the state and local levels.

In addition to educating WA State PTA parents (149,000 members), this resolution has 4 main goals:

1. Start the post-secondary commitment in high school, expand College Bound enrollments, increase dual credit options and realize the "Launch Year Act" passed in 2011. This law encourages districts to maximize the number of dual credit courses/opportunity to "Launch" their career paths in high school, also at a reduced cost. Also included is a provision for Parent and Student education – a critical component missing today. It was an "unfounded suggestion" and therefore has no real teeth.

EHS2242 has an expanded High School & Beyond Plan but no details. High School Career Counselors are a rare commodity, in Seattle there's 400 students to one HS counselor and no career counselor except for the most at-risk students. So you are right, kids and families don't know about opportunities and the 4-year college for all messaging works for many but others are left in the dark without pathway guidance.

The "Launch Year Act" is critical because it contains a parent/student education component which is so desperately needed. Parent/guardians are longing for this info as shown by PTA attendance at college nights but there is not enough info out there and getting to parents who need it the most.

2. Increase state funding for tuition, books, affordable housing and fund State Need Grants and expand College Bound enrollment to reach more students who now qualify in 8- 9th grades.
3. Support "Free Community College for All" with wrap around services, 4 states now offer free higher ed.

4. Expand access to BA/BS degrees, increase the number of CTC that offer BA/BS and ABA/ABS and the types of degrees offered and expand regional locations of our state universities.

As indicated by the research shown today, geographic proximity is critical to advanced degrees and certificates. The UW is a top rated university but it only accept the very top students which leaves mere mortals, 3.7 GPAs and below without a local public opportunity. Tuition and books run about \$13K annually, adding in another \$15K for housing makes out of area schools just too expensive. Independent schools tuition is usually more expensive for middle class students.

WA has no Portland State, which is so needed to accommodate local Puget Sound students who cannot get into the UW and can't afford residual costs at one of the other state universities.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak and for all the work you support.

Heidi

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