

Student Success:

Assessment of Skills, Knowledge, and Experience



Washington Student Achievement Council
May 23, 2013

The Policy Issue

- Washington higher education institutions seek to prepare graduates for success in a modern, evolving society.
- Graduates need:
 - Occupation-specific skills and knowledge
 - Foundational career skills:
 - Inquiry and analysis
 - Critical and creative thinking
 - Written and oral communication
 - Quantitative literacy
 - Teamwork and problem solving



Challenges Institutions are Facing

- Washington higher education institutions are actively engaged in the process of student learning assessment, but still face challenges.
- Challenges include:
 - Obtaining detailed and targeted employer feedback
 - Lack of resources to expand work-integrated learning opportunities
 - A need for improved cross-institutional coordination



Identifying Key Skills for Postgraduate Success and Improving Cross-Institutional Coordination

- Taskforce to review and recommend mechanisms for cross-institutional coordination and employer feedback.
- Develop a comprehensive system for coordinating employer feedback that integrates:
 - Industry skill panels
 - Centers of Excellence
 - College career centers



Identifying Key Skills for Postgraduate Success and Improving Cross-Institutional Coordination

- Expand use of employer surveys.
- Expand use of workforce and regional needs assessment reports.
- Adapt cross-institutional coordinating systems pioneered in other states:
 - Tuning USA
 - Workforce Strategy Center
 - Jobs for the Future



Identifying Key Skills for Postgraduate Success and Improving Cross-Institutional Coordination

- Develop a new annual statewide Career Pathways Conference:
 - Invite educators from all sectors
 - Invite representatives from the business community
 - Focus on career pathways and academic alignment with employer needs



Assessing Student Learning and Informing Students of the Core Skills They Will Need

- Support institutional initiatives to improve educational assessment.
- Develop a grant program for pilot initiatives for improving assessment and alignment with foundational career skills.



Assessing Student Learning and Informing Students of the Core Skills They Will Need

- Expand opportunities for work-integrated learning:
 - Work Study
 - Internships
- Web-based clearinghouse for matching students with work-integrated learning opportunities.



**STUDENT SUCCESS:
Skills, Knowledge, and Experience**

POLICY OPTIONS

Questions and Discussion

