

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 14, 2011

Action on Strategic Master Plan update expected at HECB's Nov. 17 meeting in Bothell

OLYMPIA – The Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) will be asked to review and approve an update of the state's Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education when it meets Thursday, Nov. 17 at the University of Washington Bothell.

The Board also will hold a work session on the plan update at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 16 at the UWB.

The plan update, required by law, will focus on how to continue specific strategies in the current strategic plan to improve student preparation and success, incent innovative program development, and maintain affordability during a period of deep budget cuts.

The 2008 Strategic Master Plan, endorsed by the Legislature, set ambitious goals for increasing educational attainment, promoting economic growth, and strengthening institutional accountability over a 10-year period. Adoption of the plan committed the state to make significant new investments in higher education to accomplish these and other key goals.

Shortly after the master plan was approved, however, the national recession led to broad funding cuts across all levels of government, including higher education. As a result, institutions have been forced to reduce student services, increase class sizes, increase tuition, eliminate degree programs, and lay off staff and faculty – all during a period of record enrollment demand.

Despite these challenges, and criticism from some quarters that long-range planning has lost its relevance, those responsible for the plan update – the citizen HECB, its staff, and an advisory committee composed of education stakeholders – have emphasized that now more than ever the state needs to continue planning to ensure future generations of students have access to an affordable public higher education system.

Among other things, the advisory committee has recommended the state establish a clearer picture of the overall progress being made toward accomplishing key strategic goals, and do a better job explaining the value the state and its citizens gain by achieving those goals.

The Nov. 17 master plan discussion will be introduced by HECB Executive Director Don Bennett, who will provide:

- an overview of the master plan update effort;
- its context in relation to the state's fiscal situation; and
- its linkages to other related state-level higher education developments.

Work under way by the Higher Education Steering Committee, a group chaired by the Governor to recommend the role and composition of a new Council for Higher Education to replace the HECB next July, will be summarized.

Jan Ignash, HECB Deputy Director for Policy, Planning and Research, will lead a panel discussion with members of the plan update advisory committee including a presentation on recommended next steps.

The Nov. 17 meeting also will feature a presentation on the Passport to College Promise program, a six-year pilot program to help former foster youth prepare for and successfully complete higher education programs. Because of childhood problems and other factors, foster youth are considered among the most disadvantaged groups in terms of achieving the benefits of higher education.

The Legislature requested a status report on the extent to which the Passport program is helping foster youth participate and persist in postsecondary education. The program is now in its fourth year.

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

Who: Higher Education Coordinating Board

What: Regular Meeting – November 17, 2011

**Where: University of Washington Bothell
North Creek Events Center
Bothell, WA**

9 a.m. Welcome and Introductions

- *Ethelda Burke, Chair, Higher Education Coordinating Board*
- *Kenyon Chan, Chancellor, University of Washington Bothell*

Action Items

Approval of September Meeting Minutes

HECB 2012 Board Officials

Resolution 11-22

HECB 2012 Meeting Calendar

Resolution 11-23

New Degree Programs for Approval

- **Bellevue College, Bachelor of Applied Science in Healthcare Technology and Management**
Resolution 11-26

9:20 a.m. Discussion and Action: Strategic Master Plan Update

Resolution 11-24

- *Charlie Earl, Executive Director, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges;*
- *Mike Reilly, Executive Director, Council of Presidents;*
- *Kathe Taylor, Policy Director, State Board of Education; and*
- *Chris Thompson, Director of Government and Public Relations, Independent Colleges of Washington.*

1 p.m. Information and Action: Passport to College for Foster Youth

- *Rachelle Sharpe, Director of Student Financial Assistance, Higher Education Coordinating Board*
- *Kristi Jewell, Education Support Program Manager, Centralia College*
- *Colleen Montoya Barbano, Fostering Scholars Program Director, Seattle University*
- *Lisa Predovich, Program Officer, College and Alumni Services, College Success Foundation*

2 p.m. Information and Action: Degree-Granting Institutions Act Rules Change Resolution 11-27

The proposed rules change various fees charged to authorized schools, add an exemption category for schools recognized by the Legislature, and provide other clarifying language. Board action authorizes staff to engage in the formal rule making process.

2:15 p.m. Update: Guaranteed Education Tuition Program (GET)

Betty Lochner, GET Director, will provide an update on the GET program and future outlook.

2:30 p.m. Public Comment

2:45 p.m. 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 HECEB at 360-753-7800 as soon as possible before the meeting.

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