

September 2006

## Statewide Student Mobility Report

### Background

The Statewide Student Mobility Report provides data on student movement between institutions of higher education within the state. The report includes data for two- and four-year institutions, both public and private.

Beginning this year, the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) took over responsibility for compiling the report. The University of Washington had previously produced the report at the request of the Intercollegiate Relations Committee. Since the Mobility Report was a new responsibility for the HECB, staff took the opportunity to review the format of the report, both in regard to how data is collected as well as how it is reported.

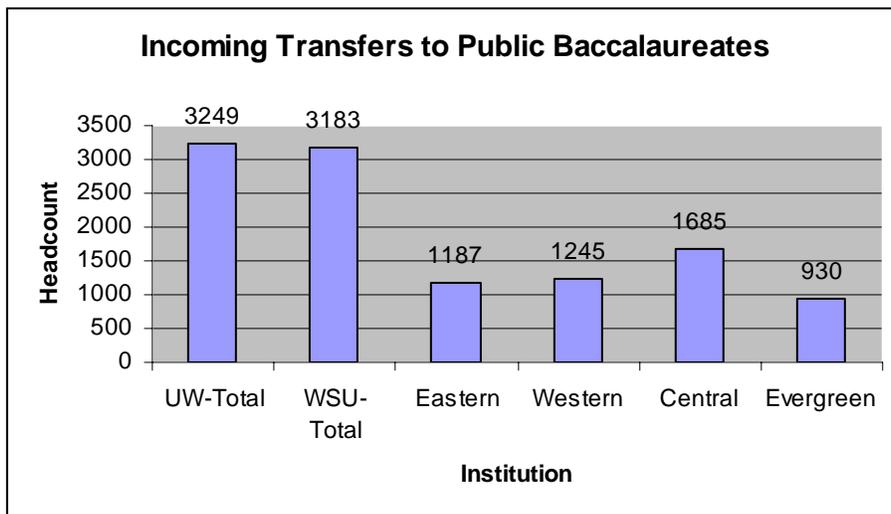
Based on the feedback we received, several revisions have been made. Given that the HECB will be responsible for producing this report in years to come, staff will continue to work with the institutions to include richer data and make the report even more user-friendly. Revisions include:

- The report now includes an entire academic year rather than just fall term.
- All class standings are reported, versus combining freshman/sophomore and junior/senior classes.
- Data for the public, four-year institutions was gathered through the Public Centralized Higher Education Enrollment Statistics (PCHEES) database, eliminating the need to make separate data requests to each of these institutions.
- The report now includes the ability to compare mobility data across years, rather than presenting data limited to one academic year.
- Most data can now be downloaded into Microsoft Excel. Previous versions of the report were in PDF format and could not be downloaded.
- The hard copy of the report has been eliminated. Instead, data can be accessed through an interactive Web site where data can be sorted in several different ways.

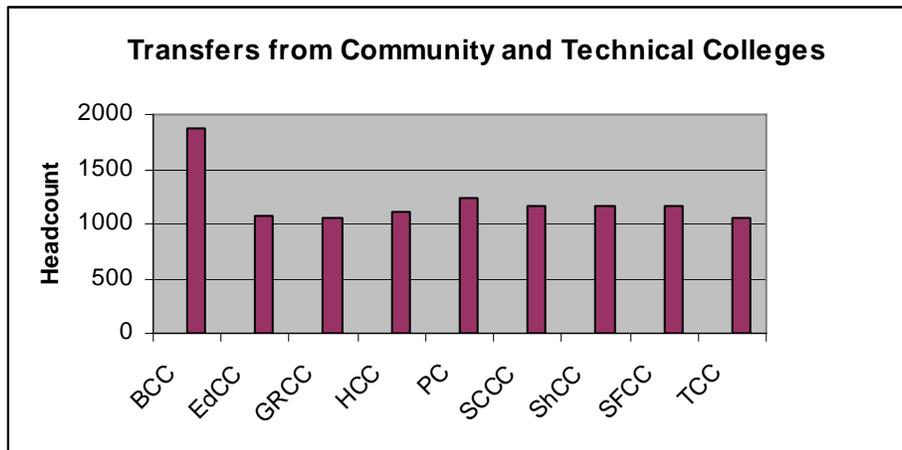
### Summary of Findings

The full mobility report can be found on the HECB's Web site. It includes detailed information regarding student transfer patterns. The Web site also includes important instructions regarding how the data was collected and what it contains. Several examples have been included to provide a general sense of the information included in the full report.

- The mobility report demonstrates that there is a great deal of student movement within the Washington higher education system. After graduating from high school, more students than ever before have adopted a “cafeteria” approach to their education, taking classes at multiple institutions before obtaining a degree. Students are transferring courses in every sector and in every direction. Examination of transfers to and from Bellevue Community College (BCC) provides a great example. During the 2005-06 school year, student flow at Bellevue was dynamic.
  - 669 students transferred credits from BCC to the state’s research institutions, and 219 students transferred credits to the comprehensive institutions including the Evergreen State College (TESC).
  - 224 students transferred credits from BCC to private baccalaureate institutions within the state, excluding the University of Phoenix which did not submit data for this report.
  - 581 students transferred credits from BCC to other community colleges within the state
  - 131 students transferred credits to BCC from research institutions, 72 students transferred credits to BCC from comprehensive institutions including TESC.
  - 39 students transferred credits to BCC from private baccalaureate institutions, excluding University of Phoenix
  - 318 students transferred credits to BCC from other community colleges.
  
- The University of Washington accepted courses from the largest number of students, followed closely by WSU. The counts represented in the graph below are for the 2005-06 school year for all class standings and all sectors.



- Nine community colleges had more than 1,000 outgoing transfer students. With the exception of Spokane Falls Community College, all of these colleges are located in the Puget Sound. Bellevue Community College led the group, sending over 1,800 students to colleges in other sectors.



**Next Steps**

The full report, including information for the 2005-06 school year, will be released to the public this week. The HECB will release another report, documenting student flow during the fall quarter/semester of the 2006-07 academic year in early March 2007. The final report including student transfers for winter and spring will be released in August of 2007.