

Implementing System Design: A Test Case

Higher Education Coordinating Board
May 19, 2011

Jan Ignash, Deputy Director

System Design Plan Key Concepts

- Address the need to increase levels of baccalaureate and graduate degree production.
- Provide near-term and longer-term strategies to build out the system.
- Build upon the concept of “expand on demand.”
- Expand the diversity and location of undergraduate programs so that more students have opportunities for higher education.

System Design Process

- Key criteria determine when a change of institutional mission is required or substantial new capital expenditures are warranted under the concept of “expand on demand.”
- Proposals for expansion can be generated by the HECB or by institutions and/or communities.
- If no new capital investment is required, existing budget and program approval processes are employed to determine when and where new expansion should occur.

System Design Plan Policy Goals

1. Grow higher education capacity to meet demand based upon population growth.
2. Ensure that each region of the state achieves higher education participation rates that are at least equal to the 2009 state average participation rate.
3. Expand degree production to meet our long-term forecast economic needs, and achieve degree production rates comparable to the most innovative U.S. states.

Candidates for SDP “Test Case”

- Step 1:** Consider 4-year capacity, college participation rates, and enrollment data, especially at the baccalaureate level and above.
- Step 2:** Consider the presence of existing higher education institutions, including branches and centers, and private institutions, on which to build and grow.
- Step 3:** Calculate percentage of region’s undergrad and graduate enrollments at public institutions, and compare to share of state’s 17 to 44 year old population.
- Step 4:** Consider employer demand for skilled workers in the region, the impact of the region on the state’s economy, and the region’s population growth.

SDP Test Case: Why Snohomish?

- **Present and Future Employer Demand**
 - SIS region has almost twice as many employers and more than twice as many jobs and working age residents as the next closest low-participation region—Olympic Peninsula.
 - Snohomish County has 8 percent of state job's requiring a postsecondary degree . . . but produces only 2 percent of these degrees—mostly at the associate level.
- **Need: Existing Higher Education Capacity**
 - Lack of a four-year campus and low college participation rate compared to other regions.
 - Centers and teaching sites provide some four-year capacity.
- **Other Factors**
 - Cross-commuter patterns show a long-term trend toward depending on King County to support employment for the central Puget Sound region...
 - About a third of Snohomish County workers (103,000) commute to King County for work.
 - Snohomish region has consistently demonstrated strong community support.

Good/Better/Best model to increase educational attainment

	Policy Goal	Undergrad	Graduate	Total Headcount	Total FTE*	Degrees
Good	Maintain current higher education participation rate	1,500	300	1,800	1,500	420
Better	Raise rate to the statewide average	2,000	700	2,700	2,300	710
Best	Achieve the <i>Master Plan</i> 2018 degree goals	4,600	1,800	6,400	5,500	1,560

Source: HECB adaptation of SDP regional enrollment and degree targets with updated data.

Options to Expand

Without major capital investment:

- Grow the university centers at Edmonds and Everett Community Colleges.
- Develop other locations in the region, including private, for-profit institutions—if cost-effective to do so.



- Provide major capital investment to expand beyond the “Good” level of 1,800 students.

Implementing System Design

- A work in progress.
- Updated current information from higher education institutions about programs and enrollments necessary to move forward.
- Any potential RFP not to be developed until conceptual design approved.

Questions?

Jan Ignash
Deputy Director, HECB
360-704-4168
jani@hecb.wa.gov