

# BOARD OF GOVERNORS

## Access and Diversity in Florida Higher Education:

### *Financial Access & Student Tracking and Advising*

Student Affairs Committee and  
The Governor's Access and  
Diversity Commission

[www.flbog.org/accessanddiversity](http://www.flbog.org/accessanddiversity)

April 27, 2006

State University System of Florida



# AGENDA

- **Welcome, Approval of Minutes, & Meeting Objectives.**
- **Student Tracking and Advising Systems.**
- **Early-Commitment Financial Aid and Related “Promise” Programs.**
- **Working with Foundations to Increase Access to and Diversity in Florida Higher Education.**
- **Legislative Update and Discussion.**
- **Discussion of Recommendations for Final Report.**



# Student Advising & Tracking Systems



- Florida Academic Counseling and Tracking for Students - [www.FACTS.org](http://www.FACTS.org).
- Automated Tracking Systems.
- Mandatory Advisement Meetings.
- Predictive Models for Identifying At-Risk Students.
- Tracking Students at Small vs. Large Institutions.
- Tracking Full-Time vs. Part-Time Students.

# Early-Commitment Financial Aid Programs

- Make a guarantee of financial aid for postsecondary education.
- Include aid that is designed only for economically disadvantaged students.
- Enroll students in elementary, middle school, or early high school.
- Early results -- higher rates of postsecondary enrollment; increased chance of attending a four-year institution; higher second-year persistence in college; higher six-year graduation rate.



# Early-Commitment Financial Aid Programs

Examples: Indiana's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars Program; Oklahoma's Higher Learning Access Program; Florida's Project STARS.

## Requirements may include:

- Student commitment.
- Graduation from a high school in the state.
- Achievement of a minimum HS GPA.
- Successful completion of a core curriculum or specific coursework.
- No use of illegal drugs or alcohol or involvement in criminal activity.
- Application to a public, and sometimes a private, postsecondary institution in the state.
- Submission of a federal and state financial aid application form.
- Participation in support activities for students selected to be in the early commitment program.



# Related “Promise” and “Last Dollar” Financial Aid Programs

- Princeton University - No-Loans Policy.
- UNC-Chapel Hill - Carolina Covenant.
- University of Virginia - AccessVA.
- Maryland Higher Education Commission - Guaranteed Access Grant.
- Arizona State University - ASU Advantage.
- University of Minnesota - Founders Opportunity Scholarship.
- University of New Hampshire - Affordable College Effort.
- Others.



# “Promise” Programs: Some Decision Points

- **Target Population.**
- **Recipient/Participant Requirements.**
- **Award Decisions.**
- **Expectations While Enrolled.**



# Working with Foundations to Increase Access to and Diversity in Florida Higher Education

## Advisory Committee on Student Financial Aid

**National Imperative:** “Work together to forge creative new public-private partnerships that guarantee access to low- and moderate-income students through transparency, simplicity, and certainty.”





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## Guiding Principles for Best Practice

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- **Student-Centered.**
- **Cost-Effective.**
- **Collaborative.**
- **Sustainable.**
- **Replicable.**
- **Accountable/Measurable.**

# Elements of Successful Programs

- Early Exposure to College.
- Effective Marketing.
- Family Involvement.
- Academic Intervention.
- Exam Preparation.
- Financial Access.
- Assistance Navigating Admissions.
- Transition Programs.
- Effective Advising Networks.
- Redundant Early Warning Systems.
- Mentoring.
- Learning Support Resources.
- Peer Support.
- Supportive Residential Living Environments.
- Coordinated Services.
- Diverse Faculty and Staff Who Are Accessible and Helpful.

**ACCOUNTABLE!**

George Kuh, et al, 2005, *Student Success in College*.