

## Higher Education Access Task Force

### K-20 Partnership Overview

"Working Draft" for 3/15/2005 SBE Meeting

#### Mission:

Explore, consider and recommend policies for meeting the growing demand for access to quality higher education in Florida by assessing current and expected capacity of public and private delivery systems and institutions. The task force will examine how the maximum number of students can be served by institutions and programs that meet the demands of economic development, emerging careers and advanced research fields. Recommended policies should also focus on helping students move efficiently through their programs of study, and providing mechanisms to ensure their graduation and success in their chosen field of work.

#### Assumptions:

- Policy outcomes must at least target meeting, and preferably exceeding anticipated access demands and needs.
- Needed is a K-20 solution that engages public schools; technical and adult centers; community colleges; state universities/colleges; and independent private career schools, colleges, and universities.
- The K-20 access solution cuts across all program areas including, but not limited to, secondary and postsecondary career programs, adult education, certificates, Associate degrees, Bachelor degrees, graduate and post-graduate level degrees, and other credentials that ultimately support a foundation of support for Florida's workforce economy.
- Governance, funding and instructional delivery models must allow flexibility to adjust and accommodate to changing populations, demographics, economic conditions, workforce needs, technological advances, and other variables that might require both traditional and alternative models.

#### Objectives:

1. Define "**access**" and factors linked to a student's success related to geographic access, programmatic access, and financial access to higher education.
  - a. Policy discussion of the Task Force based on input from DOE and existing studies.
2. Secure and evaluate an impartial analysis of what exists currently in Florida (over the past 10 years); what the future holds related to student movement into higher education, jobs/economies of the future, technological advances affecting education, budget, demographic and growth projections, etc. (over the next 10 years); and identify the gaps that exist between what is current and what is needed for the future.
  - a. Secure independent consulting analysis of existing studies and ongoing research needed to help identify gaps between current and projected needs.
  - b. Assess current capacity at public and private institutions, including branch campuses, concurrent-use partnerships, etc.
  - c. Review "pipeline", consider effects of recent K-12 education reform efforts on improving student graduation and readiness rates, etc.
3. Make policy recommendations related governance structures, funding and financial aid structures, programmatic structures, etc., to maximize the potential of student success in Florida higher education.

### **15 member lay board representing K-20 constituent groups:**

From recommendations provided by the various constituent groups, the Chairman of the State Board of Education shall appoint the following Task Force members:

- 2 – State Board of Education members
- 2 – Board of Governor members
- 2 – State University Board of Trustee members
- 2 – Board members from ICUF institutions
- 2 – Community College Board of Trustee members (1 from bachelor-degree granting institution)
- 1 – School Board member (representing Vocational-Technical Centers)
- 1 – Board member from Private Career Schools
- 1 – CEPRI council member

### **Timeline:**

- The Task Force should complete its work, in the form of recommendations, no later than November 2005.
- To the extent possible, the Task Force should identify and recommend necessary statutory or policy revisions necessary for long term solutions to the access demands.
- As requested by the Chair of the State Board of Education, the Task Force may continue its work beyond 2005.

### **Logistics**

- Task Force Meetings:
  - Will coincide with a scheduled SBE or BOG meeting across the state, as appropriate.
  - Will be advertised in the Florida Administrative Weekly as a public meeting.
- The Task Force will:
  - Be staffed by Department of Education employees at the direction of the Commissioner, in collaboration with the Chancellors.
  - Utilize external objective consultants for data analysis and projections.