Two-Year and Community College Committee

2013/2014 Work Plan

The Two-Year and Community College Education Committee will focus on five strategic areas during FY14:

1. Implementation of Developmental Education Reform Recommendations.
2. Improvement of University Transfer through Tuning Process.
3. Workforce Development.
5. Establishment of Two-Year Education Metrics for Performance-Based Funding.

In addition, the Committee recognizes a continuation of efforts previously begun, including:

- Comprehensive Two-Year Mission Integration.
- K-12 Secondary to Postsecondary Partnerships/Pathways.
- Two-Year Education Branding/Rebranding.

Each of the above areas of focus will include the need to engage and partner with Montana’s tribal colleges.

FY14 Areas of Committee Focus:

Focus #1: Implementation of Developmental Education Reform Recommendations

- Form a “Developmental Education Council” with participation from both two-year and university sectors:
  - Commissioner-appointed Council members in August 2013.
  - Council to be co-chaired by Deputy Commissioner Cech and Deputy Commissioner Moisey; Sharon O’Hare as Vice Chair.
- Create two separate discipline workgroups in Math and Writing/Reading consisting of faculty representatives from across the System, with the goals of forming recommendations to the Developmental Education Council for the scaling of successful pilot projects; creating a shared understanding of college readiness; and implementing innovative assessment and common placement models. Each committee will be charged with recommending a single, multiple-measures mechanism for placement into developmental and college-level mathematics and writing/reading courses.
• Form recommendations for models that work for Montana to create comprehensive student support and advising programs.
• Create an OPI/MUS communications group with the goal to work together to develop common goals and strategies related to communication.
• Develop recommendations for long-term tracking of students enrolled in developmental education courses and college-level mathematics and writing/reading courses. Provide recommendations on appropriate metrics and benchmarks to the Performance-Based Funding Steering Committee.
• Initiate amending Board Policies based on recommendations from Task Force by May 2014.

Focus #2: Improving University Transfer through Tuning Process

• Engage in a Tuning pilot involving two-year college programs of study in business with MUS bachelor’s degrees in business at the Colleges of Business at MSU Billings, MSU, and UM.
• Complete Tuning pilot by May 2014 with full report to the BOR.
• Goals of the Tuning pilot include:
  o Facilitate student success and retention, especially among students from underserved groups, by creating clear expectations for, and pathways to, degree completion;
  o Simplify the process for students transferring credits between institutions;
  o Emphasize lifelong learning and important, but often undervalued, transferable skills;
  o Align the roles of higher education institutions;
  o Increase higher education’s responsiveness to changes in knowledge and its application; and
  o Ensure the knowledge and applied skills associated with coursework align with civic, societal, and workforce needs.

Focus #3: Workforce Development

• Recommend policies and strategies to the Commissioner and the BOR to increase training and educational attainment beyond high school.
• Goals for Statewide Workforce Development Taskforce:
  o Make recommendations to improve collaboration and responsiveness of Montana’s workforce training programs to be more flexible and responsive in meeting identified industry workforce needs.
  o Recommend strategies for increasing responsiveness to Montana’s adult learners:
    • Stackable credentials
    • Credit for Prior Learning
    • Flexible delivery
Industry Engagement – develop strategies to better link postsecondary education and industry: 1) identification of training needs; 2) availability of workforce training; 3) cost effectiveness; 4) industry needs; and 5) strategies to better engage and link industry.

- Seek sources of external funding through federal, state, and private grants to expand Montana’s postsecondary workforce development efforts and capabilities.
- Continue the role of the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education to coordinate the writing and facilitate implementation of statewide consortia workforce development grants, including the expected release of a TAACCCT request for proposal during the winter of 2014.

Focus #4: Growth and Enhancement of Dual Credit Opportunities

- Form a “Dual Credit Taskforce” with participation from both two-year and university sectors:
  - Commissioner-appointed Council members in August 2013.
  - Council to be co-chaired by Deputy Commissioner Cech and Deputy Commissioner Moisey.
- Revise and clarify dual enrollment guidelines:
  - Update based on changed policies and practices.
  - Present to BOR for approval at November 2013 meeting.
- Develop recommendations to present to the BOR for dual enrollment expansion:
  - Recommend BOR policy changes and modifications designed to foster and support dual enrollment growth in Montana.
  - Identify existing best dual enrollment best practices in Montana and recommend strategies to scale across the state.
  - The goal is to present updated BOR policy recommendations to the BOR in November, 2013.

Focus #5: Establishment of Two-Year Education Metrics for Performance Based Funding

- Work with Performance-Based Funding Taskforce to identify metrics for two-year education.

Ongoing Two-Year and Community College Education Initiatives:

The Two-Year and Community College Education Committee recognizes and supports the continuing work of the two-year colleges in Montana including:
1. **Comprehensive Two-Year Mission Integration**
   - Continue work of supporting extension of comprehensive two-year mission to City College at MSU Billings, Gallatin College MSU, Great Falls College MSU, Helena College UM, Highlands College of MT Tech, Bitterroot College UM, and Missoula College UM.
   - Present updates to the BOR on progress of comprehensive two-year mission expansion at each of the colleges.

2. **K-12 to Postsecondary Partnerships and Pathways**
   - Implement identified statewide secondary to post-secondary pathways through the Big Sky Pathways Initiative.
   - Develop new joint OPI/MUS partnerships and initiatives with existing initiatives such as common core and Graduation Matters.
   - Leverage data gathered from statewide ACT exams to inform planning.
   - Identify strategies and suggestions to redesign the Big Sky Pathways portion of Montana Career Information System (MCIS) to make it more user friendly.
   - Engage tribal colleges as full partners with secondary to postsecondary pathways.

3. **Two-Year Education Branding/Rebranding**
   - Continue efforts involved with the creation of a statewide two-year education brand concept.
   - Continue efforts focused on enhancing the public image and awareness of Montana’s comprehensive two-year colleges:
     - Policymakers actively support the policy agenda for an accessible and affordable two-year college system.
     - Business owners, community leaders, educators, families, students, and the media have positive perceptions of Montana’s two-year college sector.
     - Educators, families, traditional-age students, and adult students are highly aware of and interested in two-year college opportunities and programs.
     - Effective pathways and relationships with four-year institutions are developed and expanded.

The strategic areas of focus under the Two-Year and Community College Education Committee will include the key initiatives of five major grants which are administered through the Two-Year and Community College Division, including:

- College!NOW
- Carl D. Perkins
- GEAR UP
- Education Talent Search
- Rigorous Program of Study (RPOS)

Planning and implementation efforts will include collaboration with the Budget, Audit Oversight, and Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committees.