

**Task Force on Higher Education Remediation,  
Retention, and Graduation Rates  
Meeting Minutes  
March 20, 2008**

Legislative members in attendance: Senator Dave Bisbee, Senator Gilbert Baker, Representative Bill Abernathy, and Representative Johnnie Roebuck.

Non-legislative members in attendance: Dr. Chip Ates, Ms. Robin Bryant, Dr. Ed Franklin, Dr. Karen Hodges, Mr. Daniel Marzoni, Dr. Ken James, Mr. David Ray, Dr. Sally Roden.

Rep. Roebuck-Chair, called the meeting to order.

Rep. Roebuck announced that Governor Beebe will be delivering a brief message to the Task Force on April 8, 2008.

The minutes were adopted for the February 14, 2008 meeting without objection.

Dr. Steve Floyd was recognized to introduce the speaker, Dr. James L. Applegate, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education.

**Update on "Double the Numbers: Kentucky's Plan to Increase College Graduates"**

Dr. Applegate stated that the Department of Higher Education in Arkansas should be asking what does the state need. What can higher education do to help Arkansas meet those needs and what resources are needed? What changes need to be made to business as usual to help Arkansas meet those needs?

Kentucky organized an accountability system around 5 questions:

- 1) Are more people prepared for college? When Kentucky first used this question as an accountability measure for Higher Education the reaction was, why is higher education accountable for a K-12 problem. At this time in Kentucky, higher education administrators and K-12 administrators were blaming each other and the families for students not being prepared for college. Therefore nothing got any better. Kentucky Higher Education was responsible for preparing teachers and it has a responsibility to partner with K-12 to make sure students have every opportunity to succeed.
- 2) Is higher education affordable for everyone? It does no good for a state to have a great higher education system but the majority of the people in the state can't afford to pursue higher education.
- 3) Do more Kentuckians have a degree?
- 4) Are Kentucky graduates prepared for life and work? This is a quality question. It's important to produce an educated workforce that can succeed in a 21st Century economy.
- 5) Are the communities and the economy benefiting from the Kentucky Higher Education system? This may be the most important but it is also the hardest to actually measure.

Within this framework the "Double the Numbers" plan emerged. To achieve Kentucky's postsecondary reform goals, Kentucky must double the number of people with at least a bachelor's degree by 2020.

Dr. Applegate gave some details about the communication component of the "Double the Numbers" plan. He also stated that one road-block to the "Double the Numbers" plan was that there were not enough prepared students. There was too much remediation required for students to be successful. To study this problem the Kentucky Developmental Education Task Force was developed.

Dr. Applegate presented information from the final report of the Kentucky Developmental Education Task Force. They developed six core recommendations that define the actions the state must take to secure the future for Kentucky. He expressed that the plan was working and he went on to discuss the growth in the number of degrees and in the number of adults getting their GED and going on to college.

Dr. Applegate stated Kentucky will be releasing a Transfer Policy Brief soon.

Some obstacles to student transfers:

- 1) State and federal financial aide issues
- 2) Students are more motivated by immediate employment
- 3) Students didn't know how to transfer (poor advising)

Kentucky is developing the Kentucky College Access Network (Kentucky CAN) to connect 200 different organizations all working toward developing programs to get people into college and graduated from college.

Dr. Franklin asked what type of staff and data base was in place to be able to collect the data Dr. Applegate is presenting today?

Dr. Applegate stated that the Kentucky Higher Education Department has a comprehensive data base that receives grades for all students, for all courses. They also have the high schools complete a feed back report which includes who graduated the year before, what was their grade point average, who went to college and who required remediation.

The department increased from 2 or 3 staff people to 6 staff people to work with this data system. Kentucky has been discussing a P-20 longitudinal data system to improve communications between various departments. Kentucky is not where they need to be to link systems together. They were able to link data from the financial aid office, K-12, and higher education.

An electronic copy of Dr. Applegate's presentation is posted on the Task Force on Higher Education Remediation, Retention and Graduation Rates website.

The Task Force recessed until 1:00 p.m.

Part 2 - 1:00 p.m.

Rep. Roebuck reminded the Task Force subgroups to discuss and narrow their recommendations in their meetings. The last Task Force meeting in April will be the last of the testimony.

She also stated the need to involve someone from Economic Development.

**Joyce Elliott, Director, Legislative and State Outreach, College Board Southwestern Region**

Ms. Elliott gave an overview of the College Board's College Readiness System. She stated that the College Board's College Readiness System assists the student to be prepared to get into college and gives them the necessary tools to be able to exit college successfully.

This system establishes a curriculum that:

- 1) Is based on college readiness standards
- 2) Ensures participation and success in rigorous academic courses
- 3) Monitors student progress
- 4) Facilitates college, career, and financial planning

Ms. Elliott explained that the PSAT is the only test used to determine National Merit finalist. In the National Merit finalist there are particular scholarships for African American and Hispanic graduates. Ms. Elliott encouraged the Task Force members to look at the number of Hispanic and African American students who are graduating from high schools in Arkansas. If these students don't take the PSAT they will never have a chance to receive these scholarships.

Rep. Roebuck told the Task Force members they could find the projected high school graduates by state and race for 1992-2022 in the "Knocking At the College Door" handout. This report was completed by Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education with support from ACT and College Board.

Ms. Elliott stated that the PSAT and AP test are both administered by College Board. PSAT has a predictability element called AP potential, which identifies AP potential in students who take the PSAT. This can be used to encourage a more diverse group of students to take AP courses. Students should be informed and given options early but many students are told not to take the SAT.

Ms. Elliott stated that My College Quick Start is also related to the PSAT. This is an online planner and career exploration tool that connects students to majors, careers, and colleges.

Rep. Pickett stated that High School counselors should do a better job of informing and encouraging students to take the SAT as well as the ACT.

**Task Force Subgroup Reports**

Rep. Roebuck recognized the Task Force subgroups to present their reports. Dr. Purcell was recognized to present the 4-year college workgroup, Dr. Ed Franklin presented the report for the 2-year college workgroup, and Dr. Ken James presented the report for the K-12 workgroup. The minutes from each subgroup and/or their respective reports are posted on the Task Force on Remediation, Retention and Graduation Rates website.

Meeting Adjourned