

Council on Postsecondary Education
July 18, 2005

Update on *Changing Direction* Project

In November 2001, the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education (WICHE) began a multi-year project with funding from the Lumina Foundation for Education titled *CHANGING DIRECTION: Integrating Higher Education Financial Aid and Financing Policy*. The purpose of this project is to examine how to structure financial aid and financing policies and practices to maximize participation, access, and success for all students. WICHE's primary partners in the project are the Center for Policy Analysis at the American Council on Education (ACE), National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), and State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO).

Kentucky applied and was chosen for participation in this project for the next two years. This project relates specifically to the affordability study. The interim report on the study will be provided prior to the July 18 Council meeting. A presentation on the interim report will be given at the Affordability Policy Group meeting July 18.

As part of this project, in June a delegation of policymakers from Kentucky attended a technical workshop in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The agenda for the workshop is attached. The policymakers who attended the workshop are as follows:

King Alexander, President, Murray State University
Gary Cox, President, Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities
Brad Cowgill, Kentucky State Budget Director
Tom Layzell, President, CPE
Joe McCormick, Executive Director, KHEAA
Sue Hodges Moore, Executive Vice President, CPE
Frank Rasche, Kentucky State Representative
John Turner, Chair, CPE Affordability Policy Group
Ken Winters, Kentucky State Senator
Sandra Woodley, Vice President, Finance, CPE

Sally Hamilton, Chief of Staff, Education Cabinet, is a member of the project team but could not attend the workshop due to illness.

The delegation held a conference call to debrief and John Turner will report at the July 18 Council meeting.

Staff preparation by Sandra Woodley



Technical Assistance Workshop

June 26-28, 2005
Hilton Santa Fe
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Agenda

SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2005

6.30 – 8.00 pm **Optional Group Dinner for Early Arrivals**
Please meet in the lobby of the hotel at 6:00 p.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2005

7.30 – 8.30 am **Breakfast**
Poolside Courtyard

8.30 – 8.45 am **Welcome**
Ortiz 1-3
Cheryl Blanco, Senior Program Director for Policy Analysis and Research, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*
Dewayne Matthews, Senior Research Director, *Lumina Foundation for Education*

8.45 – 9.00 am **Project Overview**
Ortiz 1-3
Speakers:
Cheryl Blanco, Senior Program Director for Policy Analysis and Research, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

9.00 – 10.30 am **View from the States: State Reports**
Ortiz 1-3
Policymakers and stakeholders often learn the most about emerging issues, including what issues states are facing and strategies for tackling the inevitable challenges to problem resolution, through direct conversation with their colleagues from other states. This session will provide each state with the opportunity to share their experiences and perspectives on important issues related to the integration of higher education financial aid and financing policy.

Moderator:
Demarée Michelau, Project Coordinator for Policy Analysis and Research, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

10.30 – 10.45 am **Break**
Ortiz 1-3

Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
in partnership with

American Council on Education • National Conference of State Legislatures • State Higher Education Executive Officers

Supported by a grant from Lumina Foundation for Education

MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2005 (CONTINUED)

10.45 – 11.45 am
Ortiz 1-3

The State Fiscal Environment and Its Effect on Higher Education

In the 1990s, higher education experienced unprecedented increases in funding, but then the honeymoon ended and state revenues spiraled downward in the opening years of the new century. Now, as several indicators are pointing toward improved state economies, many people are wondering what this means for higher education. In this session, participants will examine the changes that have occurred in revenue sources, tuition, and financial aid in the recent past and will look at near-term indicators and examine the sentiment among policymakers as to how the current state fiscal environment might affect higher education.

Moderator:

Paul Lingenfelter, Executive Director, *State Higher Education Executive Officers*

Speaker:

Corina Eckl, Fiscal Affairs Group Director, *National Conference of State Legislatures*

11.45 – 12.00 pm
Ortiz 1-3

Break

12.00 – 12.45 pm
Poolside Courtyard

Lunch

12.45 – 1.00 pm
Ortiz 1-3

Break

1.00 – 1.15 pm
Ortiz 1-3

Integrating Higher Education Financial Aid and Financing Policy

As state economies are beginning to recover from the last several years of constrained revenues, state policymakers and higher education leaders continue to grapple with how to increase access and success for all students through effective financing and financial aid strategies. Too often, appropriations, tuition, and financial aid decisions are dealt with as separate and discreet issues rather than reflecting their interrelated nature, but *Changing Direction* is working to change that. Taking into account that those making appropriations, tuition, and financial aid decisions all have their own perspectives and goals, the following three sessions are structured toward finding ways to reach the common goal of more integrated policy.

Moderator:

David Longanecker, Executive Director, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

1.15 – 2.00 pm
Ortiz 1-3

Appropriations: The Role and Perspective

Moderator:

Assemblywoman Carol Liu, Chair, California Assembly Higher Education Committee

Speaker:

Dennis Jones, President, *National Center for Higher Education Management Systems*

2.00 – 2.15 pm
Ortiz 1-3

Break

2.15 – 3.00 pm
Ortiz 1-3

Tuition: The Role and Perspective

Moderator:

Linda Johnsrud, Interim Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy,
University of Hawaii System

Speaker:

Sandy Baum, Senior Policy Analyst, The College Board and Professor of
Economics, *Skidmore College*

3.00 – 3.45 pm
Ortiz 1-3

Financial Aid: The Role and Perspective

Moderator:

James Sulton, Executive Director, *Washington Higher Education Coordinating
Board*

Speaker:

Karen Paulson, Senior Associate, *National Center for Higher Education
Management Systems*

3.45 – 4.15 pm
Ortiz 1-3

Bringing It All Back Together

After a productive and lively discussion of the principles that drive these policies,
this session is an opportunity to bring it all back together.

Moderator:

David Longanecker, Executive Director, *Western Interstate Commission for
Higher Education*

**Dinner on Your Own (please see meeting materials for recommended
restaurants)**

TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2005

7.30 – 8.30 am
Poolside Courtyard

Working Breakfast (Convene in State Teams to Discuss Potential Strategies)

8.30 – 8.45 am
Ortiz 1-3

Break

8.45 – 9.30 am
Ortiz 1-3

Linking Tuition and Financial Aid Policy: Perspectives of Governors and State Legislators

State legislators and governors are integral to the alignment of appropriations,
financial aid, and tuition policy. Recognizing their importance and influence,
Changing Direction, in partnership with the National Conference of State Legislatures
(NCSL) and the National Governors Association (NGA), has published two reports,
Linking Tuition and Financial Aid Policy: The State Legislative Perspective and *Linking
Tuition and Financial Aid Policy: The Gubernatorial Perspective*, which are summaries
of survey responses from state legislators and governors' education policy advisors
on the degree of alignment between tuition and financial aid policymaking, their role
in the policymaking process, and their degree of satisfaction with the process. Hear
first-hand about their findings.

Moderator:

Tom Layzell, President, *Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education*

Speaker:

Julie Davis Bell, Education Group Director, *National Conference of State
Legislatures*

9.30 – 10.00 am
Ortiz 1-3

Break and Hotel Checkout

TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2005 (CONTINUED)

10.00 – 11.00 am
Ortiz 1-3

Early Commitment Financial Aid Programs: Are They a Viable Strategy for Access and Retention?

Financial aid is a critical factor in broadening access and enhancing success for low-income students. This session will examine how a few states have turned to “early commitment” financial aid programs and their effectiveness as policy strategies in increasing access to postsecondary education for low-income students. These initiatives are designed to provide economically disadvantaged middle and early high school students with a guarantee of financial aid for postsecondary education if they meet certain academic and social requirements. Examples of such programs exist in the public and private sectors and include Indiana’s *21st Century Scholars Program*, Eugene Lang’s *I Have a Dream* initiative, and the *Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program* (OHLAP). Several states, like Louisiana with the TOPS program, are similar in that they encourage students to do well in school to qualify for the state scholarship program. Panelists will encourage discussion of what existing programs look like, where they are based, what their requirements and characteristics are, what we have learned from the programs, and what research suggests concerning their effectiveness in increasing access for low income students.

Speakers:

Cheryl Blanco, Senior Program Director for Policy Analysis and Research, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*
Jimmy Clarke, Deputy Commissioner for Academic and Student Affairs, *Louisiana Board of Regents*
Paul Risser, Chancellor, *Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education*

11.00 – 11.45 am
Ortiz 1-3

Using Financial Aid and Financing Policy to Enhance Retention in Higher Education

Addressing postsecondary access is strengthened when retention is part of the discussion. Research points to several factors that increase the likelihood of a student attending and succeeding in college, such as the level of parental education, rigor of the high school curriculum, and whether the student’s friends plan on attending college. Once the student has enrolled in college, other aspects often affect degree completion, including working full-time, beginning the postsecondary career at a community college, and parents not having attended college. In addition to the obstacles that all students may face, the price of college still prevents many low-income students from attending and persisting and affects where many middle-income students attend. Financial aid can relieve some of the financial pressures, but the rising cost of tuition at both the four- and two-year institutions – without corresponding increases in financial aid – is likely to affect enrollment and persistence at all levels of postsecondary education. This session will provide an opportunity for participants to learn about specific state strategies to enhance retention.

Moderator:

Gary Stivers, Executive Director, *Idaho State Board of Education*

Speakers:

Former Governor Toney Anaya, *New Mexico* (invited)
Richard Rhoda, Executive Director, *Tennessee Higher Education Commission*

11.45 am – 12.00 pm
Ortiz 1-3

Closing Comments

David Longanecker, Executive Director, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*