

MEETING SUMMARY
JOINT MEETING
OF THE
HOUSE AND SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION

Wednesday, November 20, 2013
9:00 A.M.
Brewer-Hegeman Conference Center
University of Central Arkansas (UCA)
Conway, Arkansas

The House and Senate Interim Committees on Education met jointly in conjunction with *PARTNERING FOR PROGRESS: The Role of Early Remediation in Preparing College-Ready Arkansas Students*, a conference sponsored by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE), Arkansas Department of Education (ADE), Southern Education Foundation (SEF), and the Council on Postsecondary Education and Career Readiness.

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE: Senator Johnny Key, Chair; Senator Uvalde Lindsey; and Senator Jason Rapert.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE: Representative Charles L. Armstrong; Representative Les Carnine; Representative Gary Deffenbaugh; Representative Charlotte Vining Douglas; Representative Jon Eubanks; Representative Debra Hobbs; Representative Karen Hopper; Representative Homer Lenderman; and Representative Mark Lowery.

NON-VOTING MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE: Representative Randy Alexander; Representative Harold Copenhaver; and Representative Stephen Meeks.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE: Senator Eddie Joe Williams; and Representative Scott Baltz.

Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Dr. Kimbrell remarked that K-12 needs to “own” remediation and to acknowledge that solutions have to be found to prepare kids for college and careers. He said he was glad to have such a diverse group of people at the meeting to participate in the discussion of this issue. Dr. Kimbrell commented that he didn’t think K-12 and higher education have ever had the kind of positive relationship that exists today under the leadership of Mr. Shane Broadway at the ADHE.

Mr. Shane Broadway, Director, Arkansas Department of Higher Education, noted that Mr. Steve Suitts, Vice President, SEF, whose idea it was to have this conference, was unable to attend the meeting today. Mr. Broadway discussed the importance of having a partnership between K-12 and higher education, and stated it takes all of us collectively to work on the issue of student remediation and to look at solutions. He said it is about improving students’ opportunities to graduate from high school and from college. Mr. Broadway gave an overview of topics to be presented at the conference, and went on to deliver statistics on remediation in a PowerPoint presentation.

PowerPoint Presentation:
Arkansas Remediation Rates

Remediation and the Common Core: Why it is Time to Act Together

Presenter and Synopsis:

Dr. Kent McGuire, President, Southern Education Foundation, Atlanta, Georgia, said conditions for success around remediation are really high in Arkansas, and he was happy about the SEF getting involved in a state that is truly interested in getting things done. He praised the way K-12 and higher education are working together. Dr. McGuire said this issue is all about the economy and about growth. He said a little less than a third of adults in Arkansas hold some kind of postsecondary credential, and, in a world where some kind of credential is important to economic growth, the gap can't get closed unless the rate of degree completion is substantially increased. He discussed how expectations about graduation and jobs have changed over the past twenty years. He said better information needs to be communicated to students and to parents about the fact that K-12 and higher education are working to clarify their expectations and to help them make good decisions with regard to education. He commented on what it means to be college-ready, and on how the Common Core State Standards are about being ready. He said the foundation looks forward to providing support to Arkansas to accomplish its goals.

PowerPoint Presentation:

The Role of Early Remediation in Preparing College-Ready Arkansas Students, SEF

Handout:

Trends and Challenges in Remedial/Developmental Education across the States, SEF, Brief

Overview of the Common Core State Standards Initiative and its Implementation in Arkansas by the Arkansas Department of Education

Presenter and Synopsis:

Dr. Megan Witonski, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Learning Services, Arkansas Department of Education, said the Common Core State Standards are now implemented in all K-12 schools across the state. She showed a video and discussed the implementation process in Arkansas, utilizing a PowerPoint presentation. Dr. Witonski talked about where the Standards came from and when they were adopted. She touched on its main principles, communication efforts, professional development, assessments to measure student progress, and reexamining federal, state, and district policies to ensure support and alignment with Common Core. She discussed the roles and responsibilities of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) with regard to Common Core.

Video:

Video from CommonCoreWorks.org

PowerPoint Presentation:

Common Core State Standards and Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)

Mr. Broadway thanked Senator Johnny Key, Chair of the Senate Interim Committee on Education and Representative James McLean, Chair of the House Interim Committee on Education for authorizing members of the General Assembly to attend today's meeting. He requested those legislators stand and be recognized for their service. He additionally thanked Ms. Florine Milligan and Ms. Mary Anne Salmon, members of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Mr. Randy Zook, Chairman, and members of the Council on Postsecondary Education and Career Readiness, members of the Arkansas State Teachers Association (ASTA), and Mr. Grant Tenille, Executive Director, and members of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC) for their presence at the meeting.

Achieving at Higher Standards: Current Projects to Make it Happen

Presenters and Synopses:

Ms. Paulette Blacknall, Director, Southwest-A Education Renewal Zone, Henderson State University, Arkadelphia, and **Mr. Donnie Whitten**, Superintendent, Arkadelphia School District, discussed the Southwest Arkansas College Preparatory Academy, a privately funded partnership with Henderson State University.

Mr. Thomas Simmons, Mathematics Chair, El Dorado ACT Academy, **Ms. Alice Mahony**, Member, Arkansas State Board of Education, and **Ms. Bonnie Haynie**, Bridge-2-College Algebra, El Dorado Public Schools Curriculum Coordinator and Federal Testing, discussed several programs involving partnerships that find ways to create opportunities for young people.

Dr. Corbet Lamkin, Chancellor, SAU Tech, discussed a pilot project with the Bearden School District which involved changing rules so that students could take developmental courses while still in high school and the results of that project.

Mr. Darryl K. McGee, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Educational, Student Services, and Student Life, The Charles W. Donaldson Summer Bridge Academy, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, talked about the purpose, goals, program design, and program results of the Summer Bridge Academy.

PowerPoint Presentation:

Dr. Charles W. Donaldson Summer Bridge Academy

Early Remediation and Higher Standards in Colorado

Presenter and Synopsis:

Dr. Scott Mendelsberg, Executive Director, Colorado GEAR UP, Colorado Department of Higher Education, presented a program on his experience with creating a college-going culture in Colorado. He delineated the components of GEAR UP and discussed related data.

PowerPoint Presentation:

Early Remediation and Higher Standards in Colorado, Colorado GEAR UP

Early Remediation and Higher Standards in Kentucky

Presenter and Synopsis:

Dr. Sue Cain, Coordinator, Developmental Education and College Readiness Initiative, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, talked about Kentucky's commitment to better prepare students for the transition from high school. Dr. Cain's discussion included Graduation Rate Gaps, Goals, the Commonwealth Commitment, components of Kentucky's strategy for college and career readiness, assessments, benefits realized, other data from the state's work, and how accountability has made a difference.

PowerPoint Presentation:

Early Remediation and Higher Standards in Kentucky, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (KCPE)

Mr. Broadway thanked the presenters for their participation in the conference.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:35 p.m.

Approved: 01/13/14