

MEETING SUMMARY

**VISION 2025
LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON THE
FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**Friday, January 17, 2014
1:30 P.M.
Room 151, State Capitol
Little Rock, Arkansas**

Senator Joyce Elliott, the Chair of the Vision 2025 Legislative Commission on the Future of Higher Education, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS OF THE VISION 2025 LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE: Senator Joyce Elliott, Chair.

NON-LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS OF THE VISION 2025 LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE: Ms. Denise Garner, Vice Chair; Dr. Donald Bobbitt; Mr. Forest Boles; Mr. Shane Broadway; Mr. Chad Brown; Ms. Jerri Derlikowski; Dr. Joe D. Giammo; Mr. Ray Henson; Mr. Nate Looney; Ms. Cynthia Moten; Mr. Rex Nelson; Ms. Sarah Roberson; Ms. Jamie Scott; and Mr. George West.

Minutes:

Without objection, the minutes of November 8, 2013 were approved as written.

Exhibit:

Exhibit C – 11/08/13 Minutes

Senator Elliott commented on two things that are making learning exciting and preparing students for work and college: The Thea Foundation in North Little Rock and the live-streaming of the College Opportunity Summit from the White House on January 16, 2014, which included inspiring examples of educating students who are usually not reached.

Review of Previous Meeting

Senator Elliott said the November 2013 Meeting Review was in the members' packets. She noted the necessity of learning from the relevant actions taken by others and of including that information when preparing the report. She commented on presentations at the last meeting by **Mr. Jason Hamilton**, Executive Director of Arkansas Commitment, and **Mr. Chad Brown**, Director of Research, Circumference Group.

Presentations

Presenters and Synopses:

Mr. Shane Broadway, Director, Arkansas Department of Higher Education, was recognized. Mr. Broadway discussed the operations of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) and issues of higher education. He reviewed the activities of the College Opportunity Summit, and the commitments made by the ADHE and Chancellor David Gearhart of the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville (UAF) to expand college opportunities, especially for low-income students. He referenced the details of those commitments that were

contained in *Commitments to Action on College Opportunity*. Mr. Broadway went on to discuss the meeting of the Governor's Workforce Cabinet that took place that morning. He commented that the Cabinet has required everyone to sit down and find ways in which to work together. He said many of the initiatives currently being worked on have come out of these meetings. With the aid of charts, graphs, and maps in a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Broadway discussed a compilation of information about higher education, including the value of a postsecondary education, per capita personal income, state general revenue, growth in postsecondary enrollment, postsecondary capital project funding, and performance-based funding results. Next, he focused on programs and initiatives that have seen successful results. He said, because of limited state resources, these programs have been funded by either federal funds or private foundation dollars. He noted these programs will not exist in the future if state resources cannot be found to sustain them.

Ms. Sonja Wright-McMurray, Associate Director, Arkansas Works, Arkansas Department of Career Education, was recognized. Ms. Wright-McMurray continued the PowerPoint presentation and discussed the Career Coach Program. She said the program started in January 2010 as a pilot in about twenty-one (21) of Arkansas's neediest counties to help high school students with college and career planning. She discussed the process used to help students create and revise their career plan utilizing the Kuder system.

Senator Elliot requested an explanation of the Kuder system.

Mr. Ray Henson, Associate Director for Workforce Training, Arkansas Department of Career Education, was recognized. Mr. Henson stated that the Arkansas Department of Career Education (ACE) has been working with the Kuder system, an education planning and career guidance program that uses evidence-based assessment and various planning and guidance resources, since about 1998. He related about four years ago, the ACE rolled out the Arkansas Works version to help students from middle school through high school link to postsecondary educational and career opportunities. He commented there have been approximately 85,000 users each year for the last four years. Mr. Henson said the system had been costing about \$450,000 a year up until this year when Kuder, Inc. reduced the cost so the system could be used in Arkansas for two more years. He said funding would be provided by the ADHE and the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE). He noted that, going forward, the goal is to secure 70% of funding from business and industry, because their support is essential. He said over the next two years the ACE is going to be partnering with the Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC) and the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce to help get more employers to participate in the system. He explained that both students and educators are able to go into the system and find employers who are willing to support schools and students with equipment sharing, job shadowing, industry tours, and guest speakers in the classroom, enabling students to have a better understanding of what is going on in the workforce and what jobs are available to them.

Ms. Wright-McMurray continued her discussion of the Career Coach Program, noting there are forty-nine (49) Career Coaches in the state. She discussed program territory, funding sources, and the performance results have exceeded [department] goals. She stated the presence of Career Coaches has made a positive difference.

Mr. Broadway returned to the podium and discussed the Career Pathways Program, which is designed to identify individuals eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and give them an opportunity to earn a certificate, an associate degree, or a bachelor's degree, thereby removing their dependence on government assistance. He said that since 2007, there have been 28,000 adults enrolled, 24,000 of whom have obtained at least a certificate. He said it is an expensive program to run because of its focus on intensive advising, intensive counseling, day care, or whatever other assistance a student might need. He said the model has been very successful and discussed the recognition it has achieved. Mr. Broadway stated the return on investment in the program has been well worth its expense. Mr. Broadway briefly discussed the partnership with the Arkansas Association for Two Year Colleges (AATYC) Center for Student Success, the PACE (Pathways to Accelerated Completion and Employment) grant, and additional initiatives, projects, and grants.

Ms. Amy Baldwin, Complete College America (CCA) Coordinator, Arkansas Department of Higher Education, was recognized. Ms. Baldwin discussed the Complete College America grant. She stated it started in 2011 and its overarching goal is to increase the number of degrees in participating states. She said that Arkansas specifically addressed several strategies with the grant, including developmental (remedial) course redesign, development of a quantitative literacy course as a college-level math course, and a student prior learning assessment tool. She said when nine (9) participating institutions completed the work, CCA extended the grant, noting the success that had been achieved.

Contributors to the Discussion:

Ms. Brandi Hinkle, Communications Director, Arkansas Department of Higher Education

Dr. Marla Strecker, Director of Developmental Division and Assistant Professor of Education, Southern Arkansas University (SAU)

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- including unions and the Arkansas Education Association (AEA) in the funding stream for programs,
- including labor and the trades in the Commission's discussions,
- opportunities for higher education issues to come before the full education committees,
- independent colleges and issues impacting them, including performance-based funding,
- budgeting for the Career Coach Program,
- background information and requirements for Career Coaches,
- data on counties with Career Coaches vs. those without Career Coaches,
- employment status of Career Coaches,
- success of corequisites at SAU,
- retesting students before remedial placement at SAU,
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) *vis-à-vis* Liberal Arts,
- skills specified according to passions,
- need for a presentation to the Commission on the credentialing process for labor,
- statewide system of tracking student hours toward issuance of a degree,
- average wages of the "Class of 2006" (*students whose education ended in 2006*),
- what are we not doing to reach the "Class of 2006," and what can we do better,
- developing campaigns to encourage non-traditional students to return to college,
- remediation, UTeach, and Academic Challenge, and
- compiling a list of building capital needs for each college and university.

PowerPoint Presentation:

ADHE Arkansas Department of Higher Education

Handouts:

ADHE Arkansas Department of Higher Education
Commitments to Action on College Opportunity

Discussion and Determination of Meeting Sites Around the State

Senator Elliott discussed possible locations for future meetings. She requested that the Commission member, in whose area a meeting will take place, undertake the responsibility for thinking carefully about how to make that meeting meaningful and for selecting the participants. She said that she, Ms. Garner, and Ms. Williams would be available to assist in planning site visits. She said the meetings should not only be for public relations purposes, but should also include discussions on issues of special interest to the specific area.

Next Scheduled Meeting:
Early March or April 2014

Adjournment:
The meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

Approved: 05/02/14