

**Task Force on Higher Education Remediation, Retention, and Graduation Rates
and**

ALC Higher Education Subcommittee

UA Division of Agriculture
Cooperative Extension Service
2301 S. University Avenue
Little Rock, Arkansas

Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2008

Task Force members in attendance: Senator Dave Bisbee, Senator Gilbert Baker, Representative Bill Abernathy, and Representative Johnnie Roebuck, Dr. Chip Ates, Ms. Robin Bryant, Dr. Ed Franklin, Dr. Karen Hodges, Dr. Ken James, Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Mr. Daniel Marzoni, Dr. Jim Purcell, Mr. David Ray, Dr. Sally Roden, Ms. Patricia Weak

ALC Higher Education Subcommittee members in attendance: Senator Gilbert Baker, Senator Dave Bisbee, Representative Bill Abernathy, and Representative Johnny Key

Non-Committee Members in attendance: Representatives George Overbey, Bryan King, Donna Hutchinson, Randy Stewart and Betty Pickett

Representation from the following Institutions and Agencies: UA-Fayetteville, UA-Little Rock, UA-Fort Smith, UA-Monticello, Arkansas Tech University, ASU System, ASU-Beebe, University of Central Arkansas, Henderson State University, Southern Arkansas University, University of Arkansas Community College at Hope, Pulaski Technical College, UA System, Arkansas Department of Education, Commission on Closing the Achievement Gap, ACT, UA System, Education Renewal Zones, State Board of Education, Arkansas Education Association, Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators, Arkansas Department of Higher Education, Arkansas House of Representatives, Higher Education Coordinating Board, Department of Workforce Education, Bureau of Legislative Research

Rep. Roebuck-Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and introduced Governor Mike Beebe.

Governor Beebe acknowledged and thanked the Arkansas General Assembly for its hard work. The Governor encouraged all present to continue working on education in Arkansas. He spoke about the results of an obvious disconnect in Arkansas as it relates to the number of students entering college and the number of bachelors degrees completed. Approximately 62% of Arkansas's high school graduates are attending college but Arkansas ranks 49th in the nation in the number of bachelors degrees. Somewhere along the line the obstacles are insurmountable and students are quitting before complete success. Governor Beebe charged the attendees to provide a road map for how to improve the statistics.

Rep. Roebuck introduced Kati Haycock and she made her presentation.

Ms. Kati Haycock, Director, The Education Trust

Ms. Haycock's topic was College Access and Success: Where are we? What do we need to do? She stated that a lot of progress has been made in the last 25 years on the access side for all ethnic groups.

She went on to explain that the gap in achievement remains. Ms. Haycock gave national information on the achievement gap and also state level information particular to Arkansas. There was a lengthy question and answer session following the presentation.

The link to Ms. Haycock's presentation is posted on the Task Force on Remediation, Retention, and Graduation Rates website. The presentation was also filmed by the Department of Education and a copy may be loaned to the task force and committee members.

Meeting Adjourned