

## **Four-Year Workgroup, Taskforce on College Remediation, Retention, Graduation Executive Summary of February 4 Meeting**

### **Remediation**

- \*Ultimately a K-12 issue for “traditional” college students
- \*BUT two- and four-year colleges MUST work with K-12 to produce better high school graduates, especially in redesigning senior year of high school
- \*Therefore, policy: all 11<sup>th</sup> graders will take the ACT and will take senior-year courses based on results – either jointly designed remediation or acceleration
- \*Nontraditional” adults returning to school will need remediation/developmental education available at the colleges
- \*Two-year colleges will probably handle bulk of post-secondary remediation, but should not be mandated to handle all of it
- \*Policy: remedial/developmental education in Arkansas should be assessed; one measure suggested is percentage of students who earn a C or better in subsequent college-level courses. Programs with high success rates can be used as best practices, with professional development implications

### **Retention**

- \*Policy: since retention is ultimately an individual college issue, each Arkansas college will develop a retention plan for ADHE with projected increases in retention based on research of benchmark institutions and their retention rates. Incentive funding will act as a catalyst
- \*To help colleges with retention, increase numbers and types of scholarships – need-based, transfer, first-year performance – and state workstudy for on-campus jobs
- \*Policy: all colleges will use the same instrument to identify high-risk (not just academic factors) students and will have as part of their retention plan initiatives to address high-risk factors

### **Graduation**

- \*Policy: each college will also develop a graduation plan for ADHE with projected increased in graduation, again based on research into benchmark institutions and again supported by incentive funding.
- \*Each college should develop a program to get stop-outs back in school
- \*To help colleges with graduation, offer tax credits or post hoc scholarships to adults who return to college

### **Increasing Number of Students In and Moving Up Education Pipeline**

- \*Policy: each college will have a transfer plan with the goal of statewide seamless transfer
- \*To help students continue up the pipeline from two- to four-year colleges, transfer scholarships and a streamlined financial aid process will be available
- \*Market the importance of a college education - **Education Matters** – widely and often but especially among middle school students
- \*Develop degree-completion programs to help place-bound adult students
- \*Study leaks in P-16 pipeline and develop early alerts and incentives to fix