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## Post-Secondary Quality Education Commission

### Quality Education Goals Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

May 27, 2008

**Members Present:** Gretchen Pierce (chair), Morgan Anderson, Mary Spilde

**Others Present:** Brian Collins, Andrea Henderson, Joe Johnson, Margie Lowe, Ann McLaughlin, Frank McNamara, Cam Preus

Subcommittee chair Gretchen Pierce opened the meeting by asking those in attendance to introduce themselves. Pierce reviewed the subcommittee's charge as defined by the Commission's work plan, which is to develop a set of goals for quality postsecondary education designed to support student success and to meet state goals for educational attainment. She then asked Ann McLaughlin to give a brief overview of the document distributed to the subcommittee that outline educational goals defined by other states.

Ann McLaughlin stated that the subcommittee should have received two documents electronically. The Educational Goals Comparison document summarizes the goals for Minnesota, Kentucky, Washington, North Carolina, Indiana, Arizona, and New York. She stated that North Carolina and Indiana were included after review of the Joint Boards materials distributed in May 2008, specifically [A Communication Strategy to Increase College Access](#). McLaughlin commented that after reviewing the goals for each of the states included, she separated them into seven categories. The Educational Goals Comparison document for Oregon includes the goals outlined by 40% 40% 20% for educational attainment by 2025. She placed the goals into the same categories as the other states for comparison, which indicated Oregon does not have a goal that specifically addresses diversity.

Morgan Anderson asked if Oregon has addressed the need to attract students to post-secondary education. Cam Preus stated that the attraction of students to post-secondary education is defined nationally as participation, and she agreed that there are concerns that Oregon has low participation level and low retention rates that need to be addressed. Ann McLaughlin stated that some institutions are addressing participation through dual enrollment programs to provide access and to lower costs for students. Brian Collins stated that the statewide strategy should focus on attracting new students to post-secondary education rather than focusing on students that plan to attend. Anderson agreed and emphasized the need for participation from rural communities. Gretchen Pierce asked the subcommittee to think about how it could define a goal that addresses the need to increase participation.

Mary Spilde gave a brief overview of Ed Ray's conversation with Governor Kulongoski. Spilde stated that he asked the Governor what the expectations are for the first year deliverables from the Commission. Based on that conversation, they agreed that two areas of focus could be access and retention at the post-secondary level. Spilde commented that in addition to these two areas participation should be addressed in the short-term and it could be a subcategory of the access goal.

Morgan Anderson asked if the subcommittee should also consider addressing the need for capacity as participation increases. Mary Spilde stated that capacity is a funding issue for community colleges. Gretchen Pierce commented that the subcommittee could address financial constraints later but it should first define the goals. Brian Collins stated that there should be a funding component in the model. Pierce commented that given the financial constraints of the state that funding has shifted from state support to philanthropic support.

Brian Collins asked if it is realistic to set the quality goals as high as those outlined in 40% 40% 20% given the data presented by Jones and Longanecker. Morgan Anderson commented that it depends on whether the goals are based on the total population of Oregon or the existing population in the educational system. She asked if the subcommittee should focus its efforts on students in the K-12 system or if there is a target population. Margie Lowe stated that the quality educational goals should focus on the populations that would be 45 years of age and under by 2025, which would include the population in the current workforce.

Gretchen Pierce commented that the current goals outlined for 40% 40% 20% are lean, and she would like the subcommittee to define specifics for each of the goals. Mary Spilde stated that she liked Washington's goal to "raise educational attainment to create prosperity, opportunity." Morgan Anderson added that it ties the goal to the economy as well. Pierce asked if achieving educational attainment should be the overarching goal. Cam Preus briefly described a conversation she recently had with a business constituent and stated that they said Oregon should think beyond what it has to improve its state of affairs. She added that educational attainment goes hand in hand with economic prosperity. Pierce agreed and commented that Oregon jobs have changed over the years and low skill, low technical positions have changed to high skill, high technical positions.

Gretchen Pierce reviewed the Oregon educational goals and stated that diversity is not specifically identified as a goal in 40% 40% 20%. Cam Preus stated that diversity is a performance measure for Oregon community colleges as it is defined in the 2007-09 Key Performance Measures, specifically number 18. The subcommittee discussed how to include diversity in the educational goals and agreed it should be stated as the success of all students including diverse populations. Margie Lowe agreed with the need to address participation and that it is important to retool the system to meet educational needs of all students.

After review of the achievement category in the Educational Goals Comparison document, the subcommittee agreed that achievement goals should be a subcategory of the participation category. Margie Lowe stated that the subcommittee should consider a category that defines quality education. She asked Frank McNamara how the K-12 model addressed the need to measure educational quality. Frank McNamara stated that the statute defined the K-12 educational quality, so the efforts of the Post-Secondary Quality Education Commission will be different from the K-12 model and goals development.

Gretchen Pierce asked the subcommittee if it would like to keep a separate category for access and affordability or should they be included under the degrees and certificates category. Morgan Anderson suggested that the access category remain but to place affordability under it as a

subcategory. The subcommittee agreed that affordability should be stated as the quality of education is affordable and available. Pierce asked how affordability would be measured. Margie Lowe indicated that some states use a percentage rate of income to measure affordability, but the problem with the national rate is that it does not measure progress. Anderson asked if a measurement of students from various counties throughout Oregon could be added, as it would be an indicator of access. Lowe stated that there are also national indicators such as applications for funding that could be used to assess access and that there are data to assist in calculating acceptable debt for students.

Gretchen Pierce and Ann McLaughlin reviewed the goals outlined from the conversation.

Mission: Raise educational attainment to create economic prosperity and opportunity.

Goals: Participation

- How many degrees and certificates were awarded each year? (degrees and certificates/retention)
- What percentage of first-year, first-time students enrolled in colleges were enrolled at the same institution the following year? (access/retention)
- Success of all students including diverse populations. (diversity)

Access

- To provide quality education that is affordable and available. (affordability)
- To meet capacity needs of students.

Workforce Development

- Do the programs meet the demands of students and employers? (economy/achievement)

Gretchen Pierce reminded the subcommittee that the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 17 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the DAS Executive Building, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room.

### **Summary of Action Items:**

- Gretchen Pierce and Ann McLaughlin agreed to review the goals and distribute a draft for the subcommittee's review prior to the next meeting.