

**Go Higher, Florida Task Force
Aligning High School and Postsecondary Education
March 12, 2007
Turlington Building, Suite 1721/25
Tallahassee, Florida**

Minutes of the Meeting

Present:

Chancellor	J. David	Armstrong	Division of Community Colleges Florida Department of Education
Executive Vice Chancellor	Judith	Bilsky	Division of Community Colleges Florida Department of Education
Commissioner	Jeanine	Blomberg	Florida Department of Education
Superintendent	Anna P.	Cowin	Lake County School District
President	Charles R.	Dassance	Central Florida Community College
President	G. Thomas	Delaino	Pensacola Junior College
Executive Director	Connie	Graunke	Florida Center for Advising and Academic Support/www.FACTS.org Florida Department of Education
Chancellor	Lucy	Hadi	Workforce Education Florida Department of Education
Deputy Executive Director	Madeline	Hollon	Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida
Director	Jesse	Jackson	Florida State University-Developmental Research School
Principal	Boyd	Karns	Seminole County School District
	Mark	Klauder	Citrus County School District
Vice President	Mary	Locke	Indian River Community College
Superintendent	Gail	McKinzie	Polk County School District
Director	Jon	Rogers	Academic & Student Affairs Florida Board of Governors/State University System
Chancellor	Mark	Rosenberg	State University System of Florida Board of Governors
President	Jackson N.	Sasser	Santa Fe Community College
Director	Heather	Sherry	Office of Articulation Florida Department of Education
President	Gwendolyn W.	Stephenson	Hillsborough Community College
Superintendent	Bill	Vogel	Seminole County School District
President	Steven R.	Wallace	Florida Community College at Jacksonville
Associate	John	Wiegman	Florida Association of District School

Executive Officer			Superintendents
Chancellor	Cheri P.	Yecke	K-12 Public Schools Florida Department of Education

Other Presenters:

Jay Pfeiffer, Deputy Commissioner, Accountability, Research and Measurement (ARM)

Dr. Nathan Lassila, Education Policy Consultant, ARM

Welcome and Overview

- Commissioner Blomberg welcomed the participants and thanked them for attending the meeting today.
- Major issues: How do we get more students into postsecondary education and how do we make that experience successful?
- Introduction of new Task Force member Lucy Hadi, Chancellor for Workforce Education.
- Minutes from January 31, 2007 meeting were approved.

“Go Higher” Enrollment Campaign

Dr. Connie Graunke, Executive Director of FACTS.org

FACTS.org- Florida student advising website

- Joined “Go Alliance” Committee (with SREB); mission is to improve college preparation and increase enrollments, particularly among underrepresented minority and low-income students.
- Go Higher Florida, Education Pays
 - Go Higher-Get a Plan
 - Campaign to get rising 9th graders to develop a plan and identify a major area of interest before leaving 8th grade.
 - Go Higher-Get Accepted
 - Targets high school seniors not yet accepted to college
 - University-bound students are usually accepted by January or February.
 - Award participating students an acceptance letter before/at graduation and to give students an idea of the financial aid they could expect to receive.
 - Pilot done at Austin Community College (worked with a partner high school).
 - April is *Go Higher-Get Accepted* month (working with the Governor to make it official).
 - Currently 23 colleges are working with 105 high schools.

Financial Aid

- College Goal Sunday (Feb. 28th)-event held in Florida (47 sites) to help students fill out financial aid applications.
- Eligibility estimate forms available-to provide the students an estimate of what they could attain in financial aid.
- We will need to get DOE's Student Financial Aid office in a future meeting (focus on FASFA).

Air Force-Education Recruits

- All recruits now have to earn an AA degree
- In December, the Community College of the Air Force presented the FL Department of Education with the first award of its type thanking our department for its willingness to work with them in terms of the credits that they give military personnel and that we are counting there instructional credits towards the instructional requirements to become a teacher.

Introduction from Chancellor Armstrong (David S. Spence, President, SREB)

- David Spence is president of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), succeeding Mark Musick, in August 2005.
- Dr. Spence is a former vice president of the South Regional Education Board.
- He has been executive director of the Florida Postsecondary Education Planning Commission, executive vice chancellor for the University System of Georgia, and executive vice chancellor and vice chancellor for academic programs at the State University System of Florida.
- He was executive vice chancellor and chief academic officer of the California State University System (which enrolled 408,000 students in 2003-2004).
- Graduate of the University of Rochester, he earned his doctoral degree in higher education from SUNY/Buffalo.
- He was involved in a number of programs to provide opportunities for low-income and minority students to prepare for and attend college.
- He helped California public schools and the California State University System develop courses for high school seniors and a college-readiness assessment.

Statewide College and Career Readiness

Dr. David Spence, President, Southern Regional Education Board (SREB)

- Have more involvement by higher education across the region.
- We know how to do this! "College Readiness"
 - Cal State Univ.
 - Take 60,00 freshman each year
 - 1 set of placement standards (faculty agreed to)
 - ETS formed a Placement Test
 - Exemption score in SAT was 550(both verbal and math)

- Finding's:
 - 60-70% of students will need remedial courses
 - ACT score of 21-70% of freshman needed help in math, English or both.
 - Assess students before senior year.
 - Chose ALGII and 11th grade English-standards that equal “college readiness” plus added 10 more.
 - Learned that we needed to work with thte schools (teacher’s priorities). Teachers teach the school adopted standards and school tests, not the ACT or SAT.

- **Issues**

- 1) States don’t know the extent of the problem (40% students not being ready). Most states don’t have a common statewide standard.
- 2) There is a real fear in higher education that if we get into “readiness” its going to affect admissions.
- 3) Completion

Key Concepts in the Development of Statewide College Readiness School-Based Standards and Assessments (handout)

- School adopted/state board adopted standards-need to match (readiness)
- The assessments need to be school based (statewide tests).
- Course Tests- Reading, Writing, Math and Science (use 2 cut scores for placement)
- Do Reading and Math only for placement testing.
- Process to create a brand new test (used old questions plus 10 new ones) with faculty members involved which served the purpose of placement and diagnostics that the 11th graders received. 45-minute exam for the average student – then added 10 minutes to it.
- End of the course test for Algebra II students and 11th grade Reading
- Two scores- high school score (accountability system); readiness score
- Next step (if students do not score college ready)- Will not have to take a placement test, but students are given more math (online tutorial based on placement standard), taking another math course.
- Students who did not score for university placement – 12th Grade Expository Reading and Writing course (option). Course did not fully replace the other courses being offered.

Closing the Gap Between High School Graduation and College Readiness

Dr. Cheri Yecki, Chancellor, K-12 Public Schools

J. David Armstrong, Chancellor, Division of Community Colleges

- The impact of a high school curriculum of high academic intensity and quality on degree completion is far more pronounced –and positively–for African-American and Latino students than any other pre-college indicator of academic resources. (Cliff Adelman-1999)
- Finishing a course beyond the level of Algebra II more than doubles the odds that a student who enters postsecondary education will complete a bachelor’s degree. (Cliff Adelman-1999)
- Percentage of students in grades 9-12 taking at least 1 higher level math:
 - Median among the five top performing states: 59%
 - Florida: 38%
- Students must earn a Level 3 or better in Reading to have better than a 50% chance of scoring “college ready” on the CPT.
- Students must earn a Level 4 or better in Math to have better than a 50% chance of scoring “college ready” on the CPT.
- Only 15% of students scoring Level 2 range on FCAT Math would test “college ready” on CPT.
- A Student graduating at Level 2 will probably need a year of non-credit, remediation before qualifying to take college-level classes at a community college.
- New committee of faculty members looking at the CPT and what is being taught in Developmental Ed. Courses and the exit exams for those prep courses. These have not been updated in years.
- All of our colleges are offering courses named Student Life Skills (SLS)-
- Classes focused on teaching study skills, goal settings, life skills and other.
- SLS students have 17%-21% higher success rate within the first year within there academics.
- Accelerated Mechanism-AP courses (for the next meeting)
- High School Feedback Report-# of students at each high schools which needed remediation (for next meeting) (online also)

Addressing the Challenge

- Establishment of the Florida Center for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math at Florida State University.
- Establishment of the DOE Office for Math and Science

Florida’s Education Pipeline: An Overview

Jay Pfeiffer, Deputy Commissioner, ARM

Dr. Nate Lassila, Education Policy Consultant, ARM

- Started with 100 8th graders (1995-1996 through 2005-2006)- graduate “on time”
- Looked for the 8th graders in FL Public Institutions in postsecondary institutions- found in 14th year.
- Looked 6 years after (those who graduated from high school)- 16/100—received vocational certificates, 2 year degrees, college credit certificates, bachelors degrees... (highest level of attainment)
- 5%-out of state
- 6%-ICUF institutions
- Average earnings based on highest education credential (2005):
 - Drop outs-\$19,700 (FL)—National \$20,000
 - Standard Diploma (FL)-\$28,252
- Fastest growing occupations by minimum educational requirements (2014):
 - High School Diploma or Less-22

- Recent high school graduates- 65% continue to postsecondary (2007)
- Year-Estimated Enrollment (Postsecondary)
 - 2007-87,299
 - 2021-92,078
- Goal is to move the 65% to 85% (enrollment rates will go up, too).

Advancing Postsecondary Readiness Across the Nation

Dr. Judith Bilsky, Executive Vice Chancellor, Division of Community Colleges

- Governors from 45 states, corporate executives, and leaders from secondary and postsecondary education all have agreed on the importance of a common policy goal: Making the high school diploma a true indicator of readiness for success in both college and work.
- Participating states have agreed to take four actions:
 1. Aligning high school standards with the knowledge and skills required for success after high schools.
 2. Requiring all high school graduates to take challenging courses that actually prepare them for life after high school.
 3. Streamlining the assessment system so that the tests students take in high school also can serve as readiness tests for college and work
 4. Holding high schools accountable for graduating students who are ready for college or careers, AND holding postsecondary institutions accountable for students’ success once enrolled.

- Florida is one of many states working to better define standard of readiness for college and work.
- Our Education Data Network, history of K-20 articulation, A+ and A++ legislation, including High School Reform initiatives, provide a strong foundation and impetus for addressing improved postsecondary readiness.

Closing Statements/Next Meeting Ideas

- Impact on Financial Aid
- Impact of higher standard courses being offered at high schools (AP/DE)
- FCAT Feedback Report (parents have access to results online)
- Teacher Preparation (recommendations)
- Reading (only 32% of 10th graders in Duvall County read proficiently per FCAT)
- Psychological barrier of Algebra (high school and college)
- CPT/FCAT
- End of Course Exam
- Be consistent (expectations of K-12 and Community Colleges)
- Prenatal Education
- Math-essential to postsecondary education?
- Unequal expectations (racism)
- Alignment and preparation
- College Preparation Courses
- “College Readines”? (measure/define)
- Communication to students (college level work at community colleges)
- Writing/Critical thinking; successful in college
- Build from the base; 1-2 initiatives; Financial Aid Challenges (economic)
- Get input on alignment
- Professional development; having a plan (statewide)
- Dual Enrollment; Funding sources (professional development, courses, funding, changing mindset)
- Teacher quality (math/science)
- FASFA
- Focus on Elementary teachers

APPROVED 4/30/07 TASK FORCE MEETING