

THE VIRGINIA PLAN FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE SIX INITIATIVES
MARCH 2016



| Affordable Access | Student Success |
| Innovation and Investment | Economic and Cultural Prosperity |



State Council of
Higher Education for Virginia

**Initiatives Update
March 2016**

As part of an ongoing effort to update Council members and higher education stakeholders of progress made in the six initiative areas, the following document includes an update on related activities and an expected completion date.

A full background for each initiative is available on The Virginia Plan for Higher Education website. <http://www.schev.edu/schev/StrategicPlan.asp>

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Initiative: Coordinate the development and implementation of programs that align resources from PK12, colleges, universities and other public sources to ensure affordable, efficient and effective pathways for students in all parts of the state.

Council Committee: Academic Affairs

Advisory groups: Instructional Programs Advisory Committee (IPAC)
State Committee on Transfer

Lead staff members: Joe DeFilippo

Activity	Description	March 2016 Update	Expected Completion
<p>Support approval of funds in the upcoming 2016 session to stimulate collaborations among public school divisions, community colleges, and universities to create and expand affordable pathways.</p>	<p>In October 2015, the Council approved recommendations to support for affordable pathways programs. The Governor’s introduced budget includes \$2.5 million in funds that would be awarded on a competitive basis by SCHEV. SCHEV staff will continue to support these initiatives in the upcoming session.</p>	<p>In the House and Senate budget amendments, the Senate maintained \$1 million annually for affordable pathways programs. The status of the funding will be provided at the March Council meeting based on final appropriation bill passage.</p>	<p>April 2016</p>
<p>Hold a forum on access and student success.</p>	<p>In partnership with the Governor’s office and as part of the Lumina initiative, SCHEV staff plan to work with institutions in the spring of 2016 to identify and map promising practices related to access and student success and a statewide forum spotlighting this initiatives and national trends. SCHEV also will work with partners from Lumina and Complete College America to coordinate the event.</p>	<p>SCHEV signed a contract for the hotel at the Westin Hotel in Richmond and formed a planning committee of representatives from K12, higher education, the Governor’s staff, other higher education partners and Council members Pam Moran and Gil Minor. A save-the-date was sent to all higher education partners, K12 leaders and stakeholders.</p>	<p>June 2016</p>

Activity	Description	March 2016 Update	Expected Completion
<p>Improve transparency of exams accepted for undergraduate course credits.</p>	<p>State code requires SCHEV to develop and implement the <i>Virginia Public Higher Education Policy on Course Credit for AP, Cambridge, CLEP, and IB</i>. This effort is underway and will be effective July 2016.</p>	<p>SCHEV reviewed the policy with the Instructional Programs Advisory Committee (IPAC) at the February meeting and will present to Council for approval at the March meeting. The policy will take effect immediately; full institutional implementation is anticipated by fall 2017.</p>	<p>March 2016</p>
<p>Update the Virginia State Policy on College Transfer.</p>	<p>The goal of the update is to improve transfer for Virginia's students by enhancing cooperation and consistency among institutions of higher education. The updated policy will include new provisions relating to: admission of students not completing an associate degree; admission of high school students completing college credit prior to high school graduation; acceptance and application of credits earned through prior learning assessment (may include credit earned through advanced high school programs or extra-institutional learning).</p>	<p>The State Committee on Transfer has reviewed and provided extensive input on the updated policy. The revised policy will be presented to IPAC in May. Pending any major revisions, the policy will be presented to Council at the July 2016 meeting.</p>	<p>July 2016</p>
<p>Increase opportunities for transfer of general education courses in participating states through the <i>Interstate Passport</i> initiative.</p>	<p>Via invitation from SREB, Virginia is participating as a Phase 2 state in the <i>Interstate Passport</i> initiative. Information is available here: http://www.wiche.edu/passport/home. The initiative is designed to improve graduation rates, shorten time to degrees, and save students money.</p>	<p>Staff from the Southern Regional Education Board, and Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education held an introductory meeting in January and participating institutions met in CO in March to discuss learning outcomes and the steps required for Passport development. SCHEV staff will be making visits to all participating Virginia institutions before the end of the 2015-16 academic year. Ten institutions, SCHEV, and the VCCS are participating in the initiative.</p>	<p>September 2017</p>

Activity	Description	March 2016 Update	Expected Completion
<p>Support a math transfer pathways initiative.</p>	<p>The community college system and SCHEV plan to hold an event between community colleges and four-year institutions to improve the transfer of math courses and increase efficiencies in the math courses offered by community colleges.</p>	<p>The event is scheduled for April 2016. VCCS has worked with 13 institutions in preparation for the summit to begin to review math requirements and transfer applicability. Additional activities may be scheduled after the event.</p>	<p>April 2016</p>
<p>Research the efficiency of Virginia's transfer system.</p>	<p>SCHEV provided a preliminary report on the transfer system and will continue to research this initiative in the coming year.</p>	<p>SCHEV issued the report on transfer in March 2016. A second report is expected in May 2017</p>	<p>May 2017</p>
<p>Continue to inform members and staff of the Joint Subcommittee on the Future Competitiveness of Virginia Higher Education on strategies to support efficient and effective pathways.</p>	<p>The committee is required to develop a two-year work plan, an interim report by November 1, 2016, and a final report by November 1, 2017. SCHEV staff will continue to work with staff and members related to this effort.</p>	<p>SCHEV will inform the committee of activities under this initiative and provide the recent report on transfer upon conclusion of the 2016 General Assembly session.</p>	<p>November 2016 <i>(initial report by Sub-committee)</i></p> <p>November 2017 <i>(final report by Sub-committee)</i></p>

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Initiative: *Seek legislative changes that support stable and sustainable public funding for higher education, such as a constitutional amendment, a dedicated funding source, and a revenue stabilization fund.*

Council Committee: Resource and planning
Advisory groups: Finance Advisory Committee
Lead staff members: Peter Blake/Dan Hix

Activity	Description	March 2016 Update	Expected Completion
Hold discussions with experts in higher education regarding the feasibility and approach of a long-term funding strategy.	Meet with individuals that have both Virginia legislative and tax experience to review the funding history, state revenue projections, state tax characteristics, and other legislative factors with the expectation that they offer a recommendation for the most appropriate course of action.	SCHEV plans to host a listening panel at the May or July Council meeting to discuss opportunities for sustainable funding. Ideas generated from this discussion will inform potential additional activities to support this initiative	July 2016
Use outcomes of discussions to inform the Council's 2017 session budget recommendations and additional steps.	Upon meeting with these experts and through regular Resources and Planning Committee discussions, determine the best course of action for seeking a more permanent funding option.	No activities to report for this time period.	October 2017
Inform members and staff of the Joint Subcommittee on the Future Competitiveness of Virginia Higher Education on strategies to sustain long-term planning and responsiveness.	The committee is required to develop a two-year work plan, an interim report by November 1, 2016, and a final report by November 1, 2017. SCHEV staff will continue to work with staff and members related to this effort.	SCHEV will inform members and staff of the Joint Subcommittee of the listening panel discussion and continue to inform members of ongoing activities related to this topic.	November 2016 <i>(initial report by Subcommittee)</i> November 2017 <i>(final report by Subcommittee)</i>



Initiative: Review and recommend potential initiatives for further restructuring and shared services that enhance institutional and administrative flexibility and improve quality and efficiency.

Council Committee: Resource and Planning
Advisory groups: Finance Advisory Committee
Lead staff members: Peter Blake/Dan Hix

Activity	Description	March 2016 Update	Expected Completion
<p>Support approval of funds aligned with efficiency and quality during the 2016 General Assembly session.</p>	<p>SCHEV staff will continue to support initiatives in the upcoming session.</p>	<p>The Senate included funds related to quality and efficiency as part of a reduction of a line item from the Governor’s affordable pathway proposal. The proposed amount is \$1 million annually (reduced from \$2.5 million annually). The House eliminated this line item. An update on this budget item will be provided at the March Council meeting.</p>	<p>April 2016</p>
<p>Continue to monitor activities of the Auditor of Public Accounts regarding institutional progress on the JLARC recommendations.</p>	<p>Audits are expected to begin in late summer/early fall of 2016. Staff will receive feedback on these reports and share with the Council.</p>	<p>APA will present their work plan to JLARC at the May 2016 meeting. Visits are scheduled to begin in May with VCU, UVA, and VT.</p>	<p>July 2017</p>
<p>Work with institutions through the Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) to further identify areas for operational efficiencies.</p>	<p>Staff meet regularly with FAC members and can work to identify other opportunities for operational efficiencies.</p>	<p>At the FAC May meeting, SCHEV will talk with members regarding ideas and opportunities for institutions to leverage shared services through organizations like the Virginia Association of State College and University Purchasing Professionals (VASCUPP).</p>	<p>August 2016</p>

Activity	Description	March 2016 Update	Expected Completion
<p>Use outcomes of discussions to inform the Council’s 2017 session budget recommendations and additional steps.</p>	<p>Through regular discussions with the Resources and Planning Committee, use input to inform the Council budget recommendations for the following session.</p>	<p>No activities to report for this time period.</p>	<p>October 2017</p>
<p>Inform members and staff of the Joint Subcommittee on the Future Competitiveness of Virginia Higher Education on strategies to sustain long-term planning and responsiveness.</p>	<p>The committee is required to develop a two-year work plan, an interim report by November 1, 2016, and a final report by November 1, 2017. SCHEV staff will continue to work with staff and members related to this effort.</p>	<p>SCHEV will inform members and staff of the Joint Subcommittee of ongoing activities related to this topic.</p>	<p>November 2016 <i>(initial report by Subcommittee)</i></p> <p>November 2017 <i>(final report by Subcommittee)</i></p>

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Initiative: Collaborate with institutions to measure the quality of undergraduate education, including civic engagement of graduates and relevance to demand occupations across regions of the state.

Council Committee: Academic Affairs
Advisory groups: Instructional Programs Advisory Committee (IPAC)
Lead staff members: Joe DeFilippo/Wendy Kang

Activity	Description	March 2016 Update	Expected Completion
Hire an associate for assessment policy and analysis.	This position will focus on incorporating measures of quality of education and civic engagement into the SCHEV assessment policy.	Jodi Fislser joined SCHEV in February and will lead the assessment policy revision. Prior to joining SCHEV, Jodi was the director of student affairs, planning and assessment at the College of William & Mary.	February 2016
Revise the SCHEV assessment guidelines.	The guidelines will incorporate elements of (a) quality measurement and (b) civic engagement based on the input of the Task Force input. SCHEV also will consult with national experts/organizations and other states with expertise in assessment and/or civic engagement in undergraduate education. Discussions have been held with Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), the Virginia Assessment Group (VAG), and Massachusetts Department of Higher Education.	SCHEV staff members have consulted with institutions and VAG since fall 2016 and plan to form an ad hoc committee by the end of spring to begin developing revisions to the guidelines. SCHEV is exploring the option of participating in the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) Multi-State Collaborative, which is a project designed to assess student learning using an objective, nationally normed approach. More information is available on the www.sheeo.org site under Quicklinks.	May 2017

Activity	Description	March 2016 Update	Expected Completion
<p>Work with state experts to determine methods to measure gaps in supply and demand.</p>	<p>SCHEV staff will work with the Governor's office, the Virginia Employment Commission, and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership to determine methods to measure gaps in supply based on current and expected demand.</p>	<p>The Governor's office developed a framework for High Priority Demand Occupations categorized by education level. SCHEV, VEDP, and the Governor's office agreed to begin looking at select priority occupations with more direct links to specific degrees to make a first estimate of supply. This work is expected to resume after the General Assembly session.</p>	<p>July 2016 for initial occupations July 2017 for a broader analysis</p>
<p>Revise the SCHEV program productivity policy to incorporate elements related to program alignment with employment demand.</p>	<p>Once a model and measurement for employment demand is developed, SCHEV staff will review and update the program productivity policy and align as appropriate.</p>	<p>Productivity reviews are conducted every five years. The next program review is planned for 2018-19. SCHEV will review and update the policy in fall 2017.</p>	<p>Fall 2017</p>

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Initiative: *Launch a communications strategy to address public knowledge and benefits of higher education, through Council reports, traditional media, social media and other means.*

Council Committee: Executive Committee
Advisory groups: Instructional Programs Advisory Committee (IPAC) and other groups as appropriate
Lead staff members: Peter Blake/Wendy Kang

Activity	Description	March 2016 Update	Expected Completion
<p>Create a structure for input and engagement by institutions and other stakeholders.</p>	<p>Invite higher-education stakeholders to participate in a discussion about audience, message, and desired outcome. This will include institutional leadership (public and private), policy makers, advisory groups, students, and other key stakeholders. Regular meetings with specific groups will be developed based on the specific message and target audience.</p>	<p>SCHEV has scheduled a meeting of communications leaders at public institutions to identify strategies that support consistent messaging and content needs. Additional listening sessions related to target audiences will be set in spring.</p>	<p>May 2016</p>
<p>Determine audience, message and desired outcomes of communications initiative.</p>	<p>Develop a message to support the objective to be the best-educated state by 2030 that appeals to a broad stakeholder base. The message should complement and not compete with secondary education and economic development, and should convey not just the economic value of education but also the general message of talent development for all its values (“economic and cultural prosperity”). The desired outcomes will determine priority areas and the audiences that need to be addressed. The broad message or theme will need to have value propositions that have meaning for each segment (business, students, parents, legislators).</p>	<p>Based on input from institutions and other listening sessions with economic development, access providers, K12, and education leaders, desired outcomes will be developed.</p>	<p>May 2016</p>

Activity	Description	March 2016 Update	Expected Completion
<p>Build awareness of The Virginia Plan and progress made in the goals, initiatives, measures and targets.</p>	<p>Launch a communications strategy that provides an introduction of the goals of the plan and provides ongoing updates through regular communications through a website, newsletter, social media, presentations and media coverage. In the next 3-6 months, SCHEV plans to develop a website, initiate an online newsletter, and highlight success of the plan through article features; in addition, staff will seek opportunities to engage the media related to The Plan. SCHEV staff will continue to seek endorsement or formal support from selected groups such as the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, the State Board of Education, and the Virginia Business Council.</p>	<p>SCHEV continues to raise awareness of the plan through the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Published an article on the home page of State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO) about The Virginia Plan, its initiatives and its measures and targets. (www.sheeo.org) -Created a four-page SCHEV Update publication about The Virginia Plan for distribution to institutions leadership, legislative staff, k12 leadership and other higher education stakeholders. -Increased social media activity and supported a campaign to raise awareness regarding the use open textbooks to save costs for students during national open education week. -Initiated discussions with the Governor's office to support a campaign to raise awareness of college preparation activities, including participation in college nights across the state, college application, and FAFSA completion. 	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Hire an associate for communications and outreach.</p>	<p>This position will primarily focus on communications related to this initiative and The Virginia Plan for Higher Education.</p>	<p>Greg Weatherford joined SCHEV in January. Prior to joining SCHEV, Greg was the director of the Student Media Center at VCU.</p>	<p>January 2016</p>



Initiative: *Promote economic development for the Commonwealth by implementing a long-term plan that supports recruitment and retention of research faculty, provides matches to federal and private research grants and enhances commercialization of higher education research.*

Council Committee: Resource and planning
Advisory groups: Finance Advisory Committee
Lead staff members: Alan Edwards

Activity	Description	March 2016 Update	Expected Completion
<p>Support approval of funds related to research through the HEETF and pooled bond initiative in the 2016 General Assembly session.</p>	<p>There are several researched focused initiatives that are expected during the 2016 session. SCHEV staff will work closely with the Governor’s staff, general assembly staff and members and higher education stakeholders to support these initiatives.</p>	<p>The House and Senate budget amendments both included substantial support for research. An update will be provided at the March Council meeting based on the General Assembly. Additional activities to support this funding may be added pending budget approval.</p>	<p>April 2016</p>