



A SCHEV UPDATE

A Quarterly Newsletter from the State Council of Higher Education

April 2007
Vol. 1, Issue 2

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2007 Assessment Task Force

At its January meeting, the State Council of Higher Education passed a resolution creating the 2007 Assessment Task Force. The group is charged with an in depth examination of how institutions might implement value-added assessment of six core learning areas, Written Communications, Technology/Information Literacy, Quantitative Reasoning, Scientific Reasoning, Critical Thinking, and Oral Communication.

The Task Force held its first meeting in Richmond on March 14, 2007 and plans to meet monthly through the spring and summer. Ultimately, the Task Force will produce a set of implementation guidelines in time for consideration at the Council's October meeting.

Task Force Membership

Dr. Robin Anderson,
Blue Ridge Community College
Ms. Marjorie Connelly,
Wachovia Securities
Dr. T. Dary Erwin,
James Madison University
Dr. William Frawley (Chair),
University of Mary Washington
Dr. Karen Gentemann,
George Mason University
Dr. Wayne McWee,
Longwood University
Dr. Carolyn Meyers,
Norfolk State University
Mr. Gene Nichol,
College of William and Mary
Dr. Monty Sullivan,
Virginia Community College System

Legislative Charges for SCHEV

During the 2007 General Assembly session, the agency was given several new charges. Four of these directives are outlined below.

SCHEV was directed to promulgate regulations for the administration of the Two-Year College Transfer Grant Program for the purpose of providing grants of up to \$2,000 per year to Virginia residents who complete an associate degree program at a public two-year institution of higher education.

New articulation agreement language states that SCHEV must submit an annual report to the Senate Committee on Education and Health and the House Committee on Education specifying the total number of transfer students from the Virginia Community College System that each institution of higher education admitted, enrolled, and graduated.

With the passage of HB 2179, SCHEV is now responsible for disbursing to the institutions the funds to support the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Fund. The agency must also report beneficiaries' completion rate to the Commissioner of the Dept. of Veterans Services.

The passage of HJ 642 requires SCHEV to conduct as a follow up to the development of its new strategic plan, an assessment of Virginia's competitiveness in attracting and retaining faculty at Virginia's public institutions of higher education.

For additional information about higher education legislation, visit <http://www.schev.edu/Policy/GAsessionIndex.asp>.



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Council Action on Offerings at the Virginia Beach Higher Ed. Center

In January, Old Dominion University (ODU) submitted a proposal to the Council requesting permission to offer expanded programming at its Virginia Beach Higher Education Center (VBHEC), operated jointly with Norfolk State University. The proposed curriculum included a limited amount of lower division coursework necessary to enable students to pursue a select number of baccalaureate programs entirely at the VBHEC location.

In considering ODU's proposal the Council weighed the desirability of expanded student choice against the need to safeguard the central mission of Tidewater Community College, the two-year institution with a major facility in proximity to the VBHEC location.

After careful consideration, the Council voted 6 to 3 to approve the ODU proposal subject to various conditions. The number of sections of lower division courses offered by ODU at the VBHEC will be limited to a maximum of 25. Approval is granted for a period of five years, at the end of which time the plan will be reassessed. Future plans by ODU to alter approved programming at the VBHEC are subject to the Council's authorization before implementation.

Additional information about this and other Council decisions can be found on the SCHEV web site at www.schev.edu/council/AgendaBookIndex.asp.

Virginia Joins the American Diploma Project

Governor Timothy M. Kaine and Secretary of Education Thomas R. Morris have confirmed the Commonwealth's participation in the American Diploma Project. The 29 states involved in the American Diploma Project network have committed to the following actions:

1. Aligning high school standards and assessments with the knowledge and skills required for success after high school.
2. Requiring all high school graduates to take challenging courses that prepare them for life after high school.
3. Streamlining the assessment system so that the tests students take in high school can also 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 post-secondary institutions accountable for students' success once enrolled.

SCHEV stands ready to assist Governor Kaine and Secretary Morris as Virginia moves forward with this important initiative to better align secondary and post-secondary education.

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

SCHEV is the Commonwealth's coordinating body for Virginia's system of higher education. The agency provides policy guidance and budget recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly, and is a resource for information on Virginia colleges and universities on higher education issues.