

**Two-Year and Community College Committee**  
**2012/2013 Work Plan**  
*(Revised per 9/10/12 Committee Conference Call)*

**Membership:**

Regent Joseph Thiel, Chair  
Regent Todd Buchanan  
Regent Jeff Krauss  
Regent Major Robinson

The Two-Year and Community College Education Committee will focus on three strategic areas during FY13:

1. Developmental Education Research and Reform
2. Workforce Development
3. Development of Voluntary Framework of Accountability

In addition, the Committee recognizes a continuation of efforts previously begun including:

- Comprehensive Two-Year Mission Integration
- K-12 Secondary to Postsecondary Partnerships/Pathways
- Two-Year Education Branding/Rebranding

Each of the above areas of focus will include the need to engage and partner with Tribal colleges of Montana.

**FY13 Areas of Committee Focus:**

**Focus #1: Developmental Education Research and Reform**

- Form statewide “Developmental Education Reform Taskforce” with faculty and staff participation from both two-year and university sectors and a representative from the Office of Public Instruction
  - Developmental Education Reform a priority for both the Two-Year and Community College Education Committee and the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee
  - Taskforce to be Co-chaired by Deputy Commissioner Cech and Interim Deputy Commissioner Moisey
- Conduct baseline analysis of MT Developmental Education Programs
  - First-time freshman versus adult learner
  - Campus assessment/placement
  - Tracking of progression from one level to the next and on to college level course work
- Capture and analyze previous work done on this effort in order to expedite the work of the task force
- Utilize data from statewide ACT testing to inform planning and high school intervention opportunities
- Analysis of existing national research and promising practices

- Analysis of promising existing developmental education reform efforts
- Research prospective grant/external funding options to support reform efforts
- Develop recommendations to be presented to BOR in May 2013

### **Focus #2: Workforce Development**

- Recommend policies and strategies to the Commissioner and the BOR to increase training and educational attainment beyond high school.
- Goals for Statewide Workforce Development Taskforce
  - Add representation to Taskforce to include representation from: Office of Public Instruction; State Workforce Investment Board, Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Montana Economic Development Association, and State Chamber of Commerce Board
  - Make recommendations to improve collaboration and responsiveness of Montana's workforce training programs in order to be more flexible and responsive in meeting identified industry workforce needs
  - Recommend strategies for increasing responsiveness to Montana's adult learners
    - Stackable credentials
    - Credit for Prior Learning
    - Flexible delivery
  - Industry Engagement – develop strategies to better link postsecondary education and industry: 1) identify training needs; 2) availability of workforce training; 2) cost effectiveness; 3) industry needs; and 4) strategies to better engage and link industry
  - Recommend strategies and external funding opportunities to significantly increase the engagement of adult learners (25-64) in postsecondary programs (including returning veterans)
- Revisit the concept of a “Virtual Community College” concept which could allow Montana's public two-year colleges to leverage the sharing of online capabilities
  - Develop a short concept paper outlining the both the opportunities and challenges
  - Feasibility of an on-line platform

### **Focus #3: Adopt a Montana Version of the Voluntary Framework of Accountability (VFA)**

- Identify common set of metrics for identifying and measuring two-year college student progress measures (using American Association of Community Colleges Voluntary Framework of Accountability as a starting point)
  - Developmental Education Progress Measures
  - Two-year Progress Measures
  - Six-year Outcomes
  - Career and Technical Education Measures
  - Non-credit/Workforce Measures
- Provide recommendation to Board by March 2013 with goal to provide consistent outcome reporting methodology among all of the state's public two-year and community colleges

### **Ongoing Two-Year and Community College Education Initiatives:**

The Two-Year and Community College Education Committee recognizes and supports the continuing work of the two-year colleges in Montana including:

#### **Comprehensive Two-Year Mission Integration**

- Continue work of supporting extension of comprehensive two-year mission to the former five COTs and two-year programs in Bozeman and Hamilton
- Increase transfer degree opportunities and 2+2 opportunities for students at each of Montana's two-year colleges and two-year programs

#### **K-12 to Postsecondary Partnerships and Pathways**

- Double on-line dual enrollment participation with Montana Digital Academy
- Implementation of identified statewide secondary to post-secondary pathways through the Big Sky Pathways Initiative
- Development of new joint OPI/MUS partnerships and initiatives with existing initiatives such as common core and Graduation Matters
- Leverage data gathered from statewide ACT exams to inform planning
- Strengthen partnership and engagement of Montana Career Information System (MCIS)
- Engage Tribal colleges as full partners with secondary to postsecondary pathways

#### **Two-Year Education Branding/Rebranding**

- Roll out the new names of the five former COTs and two-year programs in Bozeman and Hamilton
- Creation of statewide two-year education brand concept
- Improved public image and awareness of Montana's comprehensive two-year colleges
  - Policymakers actively support the policy agenda for an accessible and affordable two-year college system
  - Business owners, community leaders, educators, families, students, and the media have positive perceptions of Montana's two-year college sector
  - Educators, families, traditional age students, and adult students are highly aware of and interested in two-year college opportunities and programs
  - Effective pathways and relationships with four-year institutions are developed and expanded

The strategic areas of focus under the Two-Year and Community College Education Committee will include the key initiatives of five major grants which are administered through the Two-Year and Community College Division including: College!NOW, Carl D. Perkins, GEAR UP, Education Talent Search, and Rigorous Program of Study (RPOS). Planning and implementation efforts will include collaboration with the Budget, Audit Oversight, and Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committees.