NASH CONFERENCES AND WORK PRIORITIES

Report and Discussion

In June, CPE president Tom Layzell and Commissioner Gene Wilhoit joined their counterparts from other states at the annual State CEO K-16 Institute sponsored by the National Association of System Heads in conjunction with The Education Trust. Sessions addressed ways to mobilize state and system leaders to raise student expectations and prepare all students for postsecondary education and a knowledge-based workplace. They also examined ways to improve the supply and quality of the nation's teaching force.

In July, a state team of education stakeholders from these states convened to follow up on the CEO meeting. Keynote speakers identified key issues affecting academic quality and equitable access for students throughout the P-12 and postsecondary systems. Other sessions featured ways in which local communities have used data to modify policy and improve teaching and learning. The July conference provided working sessions in which the Kentucky team used recent national research and other states' experiences to identify possible priorities for the state P-16 Council to pursue in the coming year.

The Kentucky team, led and organized by James L. Applegate, Dianne M. Bazell, and Linda France, included Mary Abrams (Director of Transfer and Student Affairs, Kentucky Community and Technical College System), Steve Clements (Title II Grant Program Coordinator, Education Professional Standards Board), Tim Heller (Superintendent, McCracken County Public Schools), Tina Logan (Database Analyst IT, Kentucky Department of Education), Starr Lewis (Associate Commissioner, KDE), Michael Moore (Vice President for Academic Affairs, Morehead State University), Carolyn O'Daniel (System Director of Academic Affairs, KCTCS), Marilyn L. Troupe (Director of Teacher Education, EPSB), Gary Wiseman (Director of Pupil Personnel, Fayette County Public Schools, and Chair, Kentucky Regional/Local P-16 Council Network), Christina Whitfield (Senior Associate, Research, CPE) and Carolyn Witt Jones (Executive Director, Partnership for Kentucky Schools). The Kentucky team reviewed and discussed several policy issues and possible foci of work to undertake over the coming year and prioritized them by urgency and the degree to which progress was already underway. P-16 Council members will be asked to review the priorities (see attachment A-1) and discuss the emphasis of work for the coming year in light of the developing vision statement, plan of work, and progress indicators (a copy of which is at members' places).

Staff Preparation by James L. Applegate, Dianne M. Bazell, and Linda France

Attachment A-1

Priorities Emerging from the 2003 NASH K-16 Summer Institute State Team Meeting

1. American Diploma Project
   - Provide student-level accountability, including end-of-course exams.
   - Provide samples of college work to high schools.
   - Review high school achievement standards based on ADP benchmarks to be released in August and November.
   - Develop a single rigorous high school curriculum (college- and workplace-preparatory) reflecting these benchmarks.
   - Align adult education curriculum to postsecondary entrance standards based on ADP benchmarks to be released in August and November.
   - Reduce need for postsecondary remediation.

2. Reduce achievement and opportunity gaps.
   - African-American, Latino, and other ethnic minorities.
   - Students from low-income families.
   - Students with disabilities.

3. Data-mine
   - Improve teaching and learning at the classroom level.
   - Formulate and modify policy.
   - Communicate to various publics.

4. Increase successful transfer from two- to four-year postsecondary institutions.

5. Increase dual credit opportunities for high school students.
   - Address district funding and postsecondary tuition policy issues.

6. Develop school leadership (principals, counselors, teachers) for P-16 responsibilities.

7. Advocacy for education, P-16
   - Expand state P-16 Council's role with local councils, legislators, and others to promote funding for education at all levels and in all sectors in the coming session.
   - Target key groups to support seamless system of education (including P-16 forums).
   - Rethink state P-16 Council's membership (e.g., adding business and labor representation) and its status as a voluntary body.

8. Modify the High School Feedback Report to increase use by superintendents, principals, and teachers.

9. Develop and use skill and competency verification (vs. reliance on Carnegie course units and "seat-time" calculations to measure student learning).

The state NASH team also discussed the following policy issues and possible projects:

- Build employer/high school partnerships.
- Tackle hard-to-staff schools (and the costs of emergency certification).
- Develop alternative routes to certification (and measuring outcomes).
- Devise alternative learning pathways for disengaged students.
- Reform the postsecondary faculty roles and reward structure to support quality P-12 and postsecondary education.