Monday, November 11, 2013

12:15 - 1:45 pm
SHEPC Learning Center

Lunch and Panel Presentation:
Achieving Our College Completion Goals – The Institutional Perspective

Ultimately, the completion agenda that has taken on such importance at the state, national, and federal level can’t be achieved unless institutions catch the spirit and substantially change the way in which they do business. Institutions, after all, graduate the students, and unless they graduate a lot more of them, the nation will not achieve its educational attainment goals. To discuss the completion agenda from this perspective, we’ll hear from four leaders who have been seminal in helping transform expectations and actions at the institutional level. This session will be moderated by our Dianne Harrison, who most of you know as the president of California State University, Northridge, but who has also been a leader in a diverse range of organizations that have focused extensively on the issues surrounding student success, including the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U); she’s also the vice chair of the WICHE Commission. Participating in the panel will be: Noah Brown, president of the Association of Community College Trustees, which has been providing leadership within the community college community in promoting the movement from access to access to success; Steven Jordan, president of Metropolitan State University of Denver and a leader in institutional reform at both his institution and through his work with the NCAA and the AAC&U, including the Voluntary System of Accountability; and Mary Ellen Petrisko, president of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), the regional accrediting agency for California, Hawai’i, and the Pacific islands and a leader in refocusing accreditation on student learning outcomes rather than just educational processes.

Moderator:
Dianne Harrison, president, California State University, Northridge

Panelists:
J. Noah Brown, president and CEO, Association of Community College Trustees
Steven Jordan, president, Metropolitan State University of Denver
Mary Ellen Petrisko, president, WASC Senior College and University Commission

Biographical Information on the Panelists

J. Noah Brown is president and chief executive officer of the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT). An experienced association executive specializing in public policy, legislative advocacy, and strategic planning, Brown is a nationally recognized authority on community college governance, an author and contributor to national publications, and a
speaker on a broad range of topics to large audiences. His experience spans more than 30 years in the nation’s capital, working in the nonprofit sector. Brown provides national leadership on behalf of more than 6,000 elected and appointed officials governing 1,200 community colleges throughout the United States. Much of his work has focused on strengthening the strategic connections between community college boards and the array of national and state organizations important to supporting the mission of community colleges. In addition to its focus on advocacy, ACCT also provides trustee education and board leadership services to its member boards. Brown holds a bachelor of arts in philosophy from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, a master of public policy degree from the University of Maryland, College Park, and an honorary associate of arts from Atlantic Cape Community College in New Jersey.

Dianne Harrison is the fifth president of California State University, Northridge, and began her appointment in June 2012. Before her appointment, she served as president of California State University, Monterey Bay, a position she had held since 2006. Prior to CSU Monterey Bay, she worked at Florida State University, where she served for nearly 30 years in various capacities, starting as a faculty member, then as dean of social work, associate vice president for academic affairs, dean of graduate studies, and vice president for academic quality and external programs. She holds a Ph.D. in social work from Washington University in St. Louis and a master’s of social work and a bachelor’s in American studies, both from the University of Alabama. Her academic and research areas of expertise include HIV prevention among women and minority populations and higher education issues related to university leadership. Harrison has published dozens of articles and two books. She has served on boards and committees of over 65 national, state, and local organizations. She currently serves on the board of the AAC&U, the executive board for the California Campus Compact, the Steering Committee of the American College and University President’s Climate Commitment, and the NCAA Division I Committee on Institutional Performance. She is the vice chair of the WICHE Commission.

Steve Jordan is president of Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU Denver) and has overseen a number of projects to improve retention and graduation rates among students of color. Statistics show a clear correlation between student retention and the number of full-time faculty teaching lower-division classes; Jordan has added nearly 200 full-time, tenure-track faculty – 49 of whom are of color – since 2004. He has established the First Year Success Program, a learning community with support services that are offered to all incoming freshman. In addition, he has established a goal for the university of achieving Hispanic-Serving Institution status within the next decade. Jordan and MSU Denver recently received a Newsed Community Development Corp. Civil Rights Award for institutional initiatives on behalf of students of color, including the
decision to establish the Colorado High School/GED Non-resident Tuition Rate. As chair of the National Collegiate Athletic Association’s Division II Presidents Council in 2008 and 2009, Jordan led the charge for collegiate athletics to return to their fundamental purpose, with the appropriate balance between academics and athletics, and for student-athletes to be involved members of their communities. Jordan serves on the boards of the Downtown Denver Partnership, the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce Leadership Foundation, and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Denver. Jordan grew up in Colorado. He holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Northern Colorado and a master’s degree in public affairs and a doctorate from the University of Colorado Denver.

Mary Ellen Petrisko became the fifth WASC president in September. Petrisko has extensive experience in institutional academic leadership, regional accreditation, and state policy. Before joining WASC she was vice president of the Middle States Commission for Higher Education, where she served as the liaison to approximately 80 institutions, including public, private, and for-profit colleges and universities. She is a former deputy secretary of higher education for the Maryland Higher Education Commission and vice president for academic affairs at the University of Maryland University College. Petrisko also served as academic vice president of the Tai Sophia Institute (now the Maryland University for Integrative Health) and taught for several years in the Philosophy Department of the University of Nijmegen in the Netherlands. She holds a Ph.D. in philosophy from Boston University.