AGENDA

Monday, July 27, 2009

8:00 – 8:45 am  Networking Breakfast
Residence Inn

8:45 – 9:00 am  Welcome, Introductions, and Opening Remarks
SHEPC Learning Center
Speaker:
David A. Longanecker, president, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

9:00 – 10:30 am  CACG Programs in the Network States
SHEPC Learning Center
State leaders will share an informal 10-15 minute presentation on the progress of their CACG programs. The discussion will focus on lessons learned from the first year as well as the plan for implementation during the second year of the projects.

Moderator:
Patrick Lane, project coordinator, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Speakers:
Lora Jorgensen, director of outreach and early awareness, Alaska Commission for Postsecondary Education
Natalie Mazzullo, community education specialist, Nevada System of Higher Education
Erik Cutler, director, North Dakota College Access Program, North Dakota University System
Weiya Liang, director, GEAR UP, Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board

10:30 – 10:45 am  Break
10:45 am – 12:00 noon
SHEPC Learning Center

**Measuring Progress: Using Data to Track Results**

Virtually all policymakers agree data are crucial for developing and implementing successful programs. With changes in the federal policy landscape that are pushing states to implement statewide longitudinal data systems, this session will examine the issue from a broad perspective and present a case study of one initiative that used data to assess performance.

Moderator:
David A. Longanecker, president, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Speakers:
Charles McGrew, director of P20, Data Quality Campaign (via webinar)
Terese Rainwater, program director, State Scholars Initiative, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

12:00 – 1:15 pm
SHEPC Learning Center

**Networking Lunch**

1:15 – 2:15 pm
SHEPC Learning Center

**What Do the Students Think? Lessons from Alaska’s Peer Mentor Program**

Alaska has launched an innovative “near peer” mentoring program in an effort to encourage and assist low-income and first-generation students with college preparation and career exploration. Recent college graduates placed in local high schools can interact and relate to students more effectively than traditional high school guidance counselors. Alaska’s two College/Career Guides will discuss the first few months of the program, the ways in which they complement the existing counseling structure, challenges they have faced, and lessons they have learned.

Moderator:
Carl Krueger, project coordinator, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Speakers:
Lora Jorgensen, director of outreach and early awareness, Alaska Commission for Postsecondary Education
Misty Kloidt, college/career guide, Robert Service High School
Scott Mattison, college/career guide, Robert Service High School

2:15 – 2:30 pm

**Break**
2:30 – 3:45 pm  
**College Access Programs: The Federal Update**

With the continuation and expansion of the CACG program now a possibility, this session will examine possible legislative outcomes and provide analysis of the implications of the new federal emphasis on success and completion. Discussions will center on the federal policy environment for college access and success and the potential for sustaining and expanding existing efforts. Speakers will also address the role of federal stimulus funding.

Moderator:  
Demarée K. Michelau, director of policy analysis, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Speakers:  
Sharmila Basu Conger, policy analyst, State Higher Education Executive Officers  
Iris Oliver, associate, HCM Strategists

3:45 – 5:00 pm  
**Addressing Common Barriers to Access and Success**

Student support services, both at the secondary and postsecondary level play a crucial role in helping students, particularly those from low-income families, succeed. This session will present a framework for organizing and coordinating academic, social, and financial supports that can help eliminate many of the common barriers that prevent students from reaching postsecondary schooling and succeeding once they are there.

Moderator:  
Patrick Lane, project coordinator, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Speaker:  
Andrea Reeve, director, Academic Advancement Center/TRiO Student Support Services, Colorado State University

5:45 pm  
**Optional Group Dinner – Boulder Chop House**

Hotel Lobby
Tuesday, July 28, 2009

8:00 – 8:45 am
**Networking Breakfast**
Residence Inn

8:45 – 10:00 am
**Myths and Realities about Diversity: How to Most Effectively Target Students of Color**
SHEPC Learning Center
Minority students face unique barriers to accessing and succeeding in postsecondary education. This session will examine the realities, dispel myths, and include a discussion about effective practices for targeting students of color, including those from tribal backgrounds, and helping them succeed in college and careers.

**Moderator:**
Brandi Van Horn, research analyst, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

**Speakers:**
Gailda Davis, associate director, Center for Advancement of Racial and Ethnic Equity, *American Council on Education*
Robert Parisien, indian education program administrator, *North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission*

10:00 – 10:30 am
**Break and Hotel Check-out**

10:30 am – 11:30 pm
**CACG Program Administration**
SHEPC Learning Center
This session will provide participants with an opportunity to discuss CACG program administration and management issues. The Department of Education program manager will participate via video or teleconference.

** Moderator:**
Carl Krueger, project coordinator, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

**Speaker:**
Karmon Simms-Coates, CACG program manager, *U.S. Department of Education* (via telephone)

11:30 pm
**Adjournment and Lunch**