

Louisiana's Workforce Investment Council(WIC)

Statement of Recommendations
to the **PERC**

Postsecondary **E**ducation **R**eform **C**ommission



Our Testimony to the PERC

- ▶ **Delivered:** November 16, 2009
- ▶ **Our Basic Message:** *we need significant change now* – our higher education system must become more responsive to the State's identified needs.
- ▶ **WIC Recommendations:** *seven strategic imperatives* for better alignment of the State's higher education resources.

Recommendation 1

- ▶ **Creating Better Connections and Collaboration Between Our High Schools, Our Community and Technical Colleges, and Our Universities** to make sure everyone in Louisiana is prepared for, and has access to at least one, two, or four years of postsecondary education. Also to enhance the quality and amount of career information and counseling provided to students at all education levels.

Recommendation 2

- ▶ **Utilizing a Performance-based Funding Formula** to reward success in all components of our higher education system. Success must include a measure of whether our students become employed in their chosen fields in Louisiana.

Recommendation 3

- ▶ **Developing the Resources and Elevating the Status of Associate Degrees and Technical Certificates** as a good pathway to high-value jobs and to our four-year schools. Innovative methods to increase capacity for enrollment growth should be examined, including expansion of online courses/programs and facility/faculty sharing. Enrollment growth should be directed in areas that increase relevance to business and industry.

Recommendation 4

- ▶ **Refocusing the Missions of Regional Universities** to better serve the economic needs of its communities – by increasing admission standards (and reducing exceptions to those standards), improving completion rates, and eliminating duplication of programs. Greater collaboration among all postsecondary institutions in each region is essential.

Recommendation 5

- ▶ **Supporting LSU to be Competitive with the Top Research Universities in the Nation** in its ability to attract and retain talented faculty, students, and research funding and grants.

Recommendation 6

- ▶ **Supporting Funding of Postsecondary Institutions** to the level necessary to fulfill their mission while protecting opportunities for all students which may include, but is not limited to, providing tuition and fee raising flexibility for all higher education institutions – to spur a healthy competition between schools for our students, and to allow each school the opportunity to cover the costs of meeting their respective missions.

Recommendation 7

- ▶ **Evaluating Postsecondary Governance for Redesign** that would better support a comprehensive postsecondary education vision, a rationalized deployment of state resources, and a system of postsecondary education that is more responsive to Louisiana's needs.

How You Can Get Involved

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