

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

PROPOSED NEW CENTER AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE POLICY CENTER

Action Requested: Receive the report on the participation of Iowa State University in the re-established Community College Policy Center. The administrative unit for the Center at Iowa State University will be the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies in the College of Human Sciences.

Executive Summary: The Community College Policy Center (CCPC) is a national policy clearinghouse that was created in 1996 by the Education Commission of the States. The goal of the Center is to provide support to state and federal policymakers and community college leaders as a one-stop resource for information and policy research focused on how states can leverage their community colleges as engines of economic development and educational opportunity. Participation by ISU in the re-organized Center was recently approved by President Gregory Geoffroy and Executive Vice-President and Provost Elizabeth Hoffman. Participation in the Center does not require Board of Regents approval because the Center will not require an annual institutional commitment of \$250,000 or more as stated in the Board of Regents Policy Manual §6.08. This request addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priorities (3.0) to “discover new knowledge through research, scholarship, and creative activities” and (2.0) to “provide needed service and promote economic growth.”

Background:

- ◇ Re-establishment of the Center. The Academy for Educational Development (AED), Iowa State University, and the Education Commission of the States (ECS) have collaborated to reconstitute the Center to work with policymakers and institutional leaders to position community colleges to meet state and regional economic and educational needs.
- ◇ Goals of the Center. The Center will assist policymakers to maximize their investments in community colleges by providing the information, research, and support needed to implement proven practices and practices that will have the greatest impact on residents and economies. The Center has identified the following goals:
 - ☛ “Provide just-in-time, high-quality information and analysis of community college data and policies in a central web-based location;
 - ☛ Enhance the impact of critical innovations in community college policy by ensuring that investments made by philanthropic foundations and state agencies are widely disseminated and accessible to policymakers;
 - ☛ Convene community college leaders, researchers, and policymakers to explore the latest innovations in community college policy and assist policymakers as they adapt these efforts to their states;
 - ☛ Utilize information technology to create a network of policymakers and a one-stop website with the latest research and best practices in community college policy;
 - ☛ Deliver high-quality technical assistance to states; and
 - ☛ Develop and implement projects that support outstanding community college policy and practice.”

- ◇ Memorandum of Understanding. AED, ISU, and ECS will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which specifies that the three entities will maintain their separate and unique missions and accountabilities. The cooperation among the entities will not create a partnership or other type of legal entity and each shall be responsible for its own expenses.
- ◇ Relationship of Center to other units at ISU. The Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies (ELPS) houses the Research Institute for Studies in Education (RISE) and the Office of Community College Research and Policy (OCCRP). RISE works with educational constituencies to design original research, write reports, analyze policy, and present training seminars. OCCRP serves as the research arm for the Community College Leadership Program (CCLP) and focuses on issues regarding the impact of community colleges on individuals and society. The CCLP was cited as one of the nation's innovative leadership programs by the American Association of Community Colleges.
- ◇ Duplication. No other Iowa Regent university has an established community college leadership program.
- ◇ Description of entities. Together with ISU, the Center will include the following entities:
 - ◆ *AED* is a non-profit organization working globally to improve education, health, civil society, and economic development. In collaboration with local and national partners, AED fosters sustainable results through practical, comprehensive approaches to social and economic challenges in all 50 states and more than 150 countries.
 - ◆ *ECS* is an interstate compact created in 1965 to improve public education by facilitating the exchange of information, ideas, and experiences among state policymakers and education leaders. As a non-profit, non-partisan organization involving key leaders from all levels of the education system, ECS creates unique opportunities to build partnerships, share information, and promote the development of policy based on available research and strategies.
- ◇ Operation of Center. The Center will be located at AED in Washington, D.C. AED will provide executive leadership to the Center and will provide the position of executive director for the Center. The Center will be governed by an executive committee made up of the principals from each of the entities and the executive director. The executive committee will meet on a quarterly basis. The entities will collaborate to identify funding opportunities, including government-issued solicitations for contracts, cooperative agreements and grants, and foundation solicitations, that will assist the Center to achieve its goals.
- ◇ Staff. ISU anticipates adding 1-2 graduate students at an annual cost of approximately \$50,000. Under the auspices of RISE and OCCRP, ISU expects to use current faculty to coordinate Center activities.
- ◇ Facilities. ISU does not anticipate the need for additional facilities or equipment.
- ◇ Funding sources. The Center will be funded by grants and contracts.

- ◇ Link to Strategic Plan. The Center addresses the University's Strategic Plan mission to "be creative partners in learning and teaching, research and outreach; be stewards of our rich collections of knowledge; and provide innovative services in ways that anticipate needs and respect the diversity of community and ideas."

- ◇ Expected need. The Center is expected to continue as long as the memorandum of understanding is in effect.