

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents

From: Board Office

Subject: Annual Report of the Regents' Committee on Educational Relations (RCER)

Date: October 8, 2001

Recommended Action: Receive the report of the Committee.

Executive Summary: For Academic Year 2000-2001, RCER established three goals, which the Interinstitutional Committee on Educational Coordination (ICEC) approved. The report delineates the three goals, cites the strategies developed, and describes the outcomes.

2000-2001 Goals

Goal 1: Respond to the general education and articulation issues for the state and specific concerns from the ICEC.	
Strategy 1: Sponsor Articulation Conference (April 30, 2001).	Outcome: Approximately 100 people attended the event that focused on aiding high school students to have more productive senior years, smoother transitions to college, and enhanced collegiate experiences.
Strategy 2: Develop High School Preparation brochure.	Outcome: A new brochure, <i>Building Your Future: Preparing for Academic Success at Iowa's Regent Universities</i> , will replace <i>Your Courses Count</i> in Fall 2001.
Goal 2: To continue to champion the electronic exchange of academic records among all educational levels within the state.	
Strategy 1: Provide consultation services to Community Colleges to implement the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Project.	Outcome: Five Community Colleges are utilizing EDI; four others are nearly ready, and other institutions are scheduling training times.

2000-2001 Goals
(continued)

Goal 3: To facilitate exchange visitations between and among representatives of the Iowa community colleges and Regent universities.	
Strategy 1: Visit Community Colleges to help with EDI implementation.	Outcome: In process.
Strategy 2: Continue to discuss and refine issues related to articulation.	Outcome: The Liaison Articulation Committee on Transfer Students (LACTS) Committee, comprised of community colleges and Regent university personnel, engaged in revising the basic articulation agreement.

2001-2002 Goals

The annual report concludes with a list of RCER's four goals for 2001-2002. They are consistent with and supportive of efforts that envision a more "seamless education" system for Iowans. The goals are:

- To continue discussion of alternative high school curriculum and to update the High School Preparation brochure.
- To continue to explore seamless articulation strategies.
- To continue the work with high schools and community colleges regarding EDI transmission of educational records.
- To respond to general education articulation issues.

Link to Strategic Plan:

The work of the Regents' Committee on Educational Relations is closely aligned with two Key Result Areas of the Board's Strategic Plan – 1.0.0.0, Quality and 2.0.0.0, Access. More specifically, RCER's tasks are linked to:

- Action Step 4.4.2.3 Explore opportunities for partnerships among the Regent institutions and with other sectors of education, and to some extent,
- Action Step 2.1.2.2 Increase collaboration and cooperation with other sections of postsecondary education in marketing efforts.

Background:

The *Procedural Guide* lists these functions for RCER:

- To establish closer relationships and cooperation with post-high school institutions in the state.
- To facilitate articulation between and among secondary schools and colleges in the state.
- To determine the acceptability of credit from nonpublic Iowa colleges not fully accredited by the regional accreditation association.
- To develop procedures for the validation or acceptance of credit in instances other than those delineated herein.
- To recommend for consideration by the Regents possible modifications in the general policy concerning admission of

undergraduate students.

- To coordinate and make recommendations on other matters concerning relations with secondary schools and with other segments of post-secondary education as assigned by the Committee on Educational Coordination (ICEC).

Analysis:

Both nationally and in Iowa, numerous political and educational leaders call for a seamless education system. Generally speaking, this is defined as making transitions from one level of education to another as efficient as possible. Electronic transfer of records, more compatible transfer of credits between types of institutions, in-state and "between-state" articulation agreements, and improved techniques for analyzing degree audits are a few strategies that are suggested for facilitating seamless education.

Cooperative and collaborative distance learning activities are other strategies that may contribute to ease of students, especially older adults who are place-bound or limited by time, to meeting their personal and professional educational goals. The activities of the Coordinating Council on Virtual Learning and the 2+2 Council will relate to the activities of RCER.

RCER printed materials and its annual conference are well-received. This year the annual conference will be scheduled in conjunction with the Iowa Coordinating Council for Post-High School Education (ICCPHSE). RCER members want to continue to produce quality publications and engage in activities that are of benefit to students and their families. RCER plans to rise to the challenge of working with community colleges to increase articulation agreements. It must be noted, however, that the reduction in institutional budgets is likely to limit what might otherwise have been accomplished.


Regent Exhibit
Book

The full report of the Committee is found in the Regent Exhibit Book.

**Performance
Indicators:**

There are no specific indicators related to this report.


Charles R. Kniker

Approved: 
Robert J. Barak