

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 23, 2009**

**System design study review set for Thursday HECB meeting**

**OLYMPIA**— A statewide study being led by the Higher Education Coordinating Board will help establish growth parameters for Washington's higher education institutions during the next decade and beyond. The Board will hear a progress report on the study at its regular meeting Thursday, March 26, at the State Investment Board in Olympia.

Also appearing at the meeting will be Arun Raha, executive director of the State Economic and Revenue Forecast Council, who will provide an overview of Washington's revenue picture and future economic indicators. In addition, a panel of technology experts will focus on eLearning and other technology initiatives at the University of Washington and Eastern Washington University.

**System Design Study**

One of the goals of the Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education is to increase degree production by more than 40 percent in Washington during the coming decade. Additional demand for higher education also will occur as the state adds more than a million residents in the next two decades.

The HECB system design study will help the state determine how to meet this demand in the most strategic manner possible. New guidelines to determine when and where to locate new campuses and higher education centers are needed, along with recommendations for any new investments in eLearning that could help expand access to higher education. Initiatives targeted at under-served areas and populations also will be needed,

The design study – the most comprehensive review of the higher education delivery system in Washington in nearly 30 years – will provide a framework for these and other decisions as institutions re-examine their role and mission in light of future needs and resources.

A study group composed of representatives from the HECB, the Council of Presidents of the state's four-year institutions, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) and the Independent Colleges of Washington representing the state's independent colleges and universities, is conducting the study.

Draft recommendations are due to the HECB in October 2009, with final recommendations approved by the Board the following month. The report will develop recommendations:

- on how to best to deliver undergraduate and graduate education throughout Washington;
- on how to best use existing capacity to deliver mid-level, baccalaureate and graduate degree programs and certificates; and

- on how growth and change should occur, using existing resources efficiently and identifying areas that need new or expanded resources.

“Today’s economic crisis only underscores our state’s documented need to expand access to higher education, both for young people and for working adults who want to update their job skills,” said HECB Executive Director Ann Daley. “This design study will offer a coordinated approach for achieving these goals in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.”

Earl Hale, HECB member and higher-education consultant, is co-chairing the study group with John Gardner, vice president for Economic Development and WSU extension at Washington State University.

The Board also will hear a report on workforce training and education needs. The report, “A Skilled and Educated Workforce,” is produced bi-annually by the HECB, the SBCTC, and the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board. It provides an analysis of the degrees, certificates and training Washington workers will need to meet employer demand in the years ahead.

Briefing materials for the meeting are available at:

[www.hecb.wa.gov/boardmtgs/index.asp](http://www.hecb.wa.gov/boardmtgs/index.asp)

**Who: Higher Education Coordinating Board/Advisory Council**

**What: March regular meeting**

**Where: State Investment Board Room  
2100 Evergreen Park Drive SW  
Olympia, 98502**

**When: Thursday, March 26, 2009 – 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

### **Regular Board Meeting**

**9 a.m. Welcome and introductions.**  
*Jesus Hernandez, HECB chair*

### **Consent Agenda**

Approval of the February meeting minutes

**A Skilled and Educated Workforce- Joint Report**  
*Resolution 09-05*

**9:15 a.m. Report of the Executive Director**  
Ann Daley will present an update on agency programs and activities.

**9:20 a.m. Information & Discussion: System Design Study**

**10:05 a.m. College Bound Scholarship and GEAR UP Update**

**10:15 a.m. 2009 Legislative Session Update**

A report will be presented on legislative activities in the 2009 legislative session.

**10:30 a.m. Technology Panel**

The panel discussion will cover strategic technology planning, improved student learning through technology, and technology innovation in higher education.

- *Tom Lewis, Director of Online Technologies, Learning & Scholarly Technologies, University of Washington*
- *Todd B. Mildon, University Registrar, Director of Student Academic Data Management, UW*
- *Gary L. Pratt, Chief Information Officer, Eastern Washington University*
- *Clark C. Westmoreland, Assistant Vice Provost, Educational Outreach, UW*

**1 p.m. Fiscal Committee**

*Charley Bingham, chair*

**Information and Discussion:**

**State Economic and Revenue Outlook**

- *Arun Raha, Executive Director, State Economic & Revenue Forecast Council*

**President Obama's Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Overview**

**Tuition and Fee Report**

**3:00 p.m. Education Committee**

*Sam Smith, Chair*

**Status Report on Program Approvals**

The HECB is charged with planning and coordinating academic programs and off-campus facilities. Pursuant to this charge the HECB approves new degree programs offered at the baccalaureate and graduate level. This report summarizes approval activity from February 2008 to February 2009. No board action required.

Amendment to HECB Program and Facility Approval Policies and Procedures  
*Res. 09-06*

**4 p.m. Adjournment**

**Public Comment:** *A sign-in sheet is provided for public comment on any of the items presented.*

**Meeting Accommodation:** *Persons who require special accommodation for attendance must call the HECB at 360-753-7800 as soon as possible before the meeting.*

###