

SUMMARY OF 1999-2000 INTERIM HIGHER EDUCATION ROUNDTABLE RECOMMENDATIONS

The 1999-2000 interim Higher Education Roundtable utilized six task forces to develop recommendations for action. The task forces developed over 90 recommendations in the areas of economic development connection, education excellence, flexible and responsive system, accessibility, funding and rewards, and sustaining the vision. The final report of the roundtable summarized the recommendations and assigned general responsibility for followup on each recommendation. The table below provides a summary of the recommendations listed by the entity assigned for followup on the recommendations:

State Board of Higher Education

1. Take the leadership in ensuring key steps required for implementation of the roundtable are taken, specifically to develop and recommend (to the executive and legislative branches):
 - A long-term plan for the financing of the North Dakota University System.
 - A resource allocation mechanism.
 - Accountability mechanisms, both performance and fiscal.
2. Change policies and procedures to empower campus presidents and grant to the campuses the same conditions being sought for the University System - Flexibility with accountability.
3. Develop a University System which has intellectual capacity and programs aligned with the needs of the state.
4. Develop a delivery system capable of making the capacities of the University System accessible to all of North Dakota using:
 - Learning centers.
 - Distance delivery.
 - Collaborative delivery.
 - Duplicated programs where appropriate.
5. Collaborate with other participants in collectively moving the agenda forward.

Executive branch

1. Assume the leadership in ensuring the necessary technology infrastructure is extended throughout North Dakota.
2. Work with the State Board of Higher Education and the Legislative Assembly in devising funding and accountability mechanisms and then:
 - Revise and simplify the budget process in conformance with these agreements.
 - Modify accountability mechanisms, both performance and fiscal, to make them consistent with those of other key actors.
3. Be a full participant in efforts to communicate to the public and other audiences the message emerging from the roundtable and to move the agenda forward.

Legislative Assembly

1. Work with the executive branch to ensure the necessary technology infrastructure is extended throughout North Dakota.
2. Work with the State Board of Higher Education and the executive branch to create agreed-upon funding and accountability mechanisms and then:
 - Modify budget and appropriation processes so they are consistent with the directions and expectations of the roundtable.
 - Utilize the agreed-upon accountability process.
 - Bring the audit function into conformance with the intent of the roundtable.
3. Take steps to ensure the actions of the Legislative Assembly and its staff reflect a relationship with the University System which grants flexibility with accountability.
4. Participate with other entities in communicating the agenda that has emerged from the roundtable and in continuing the process in future years.

North Dakota University System

1. The University System should take steps to ensure the collective capacity of the campuses--intellectual assets and programs--are aligned with the needs of the state and its citizens. In this regard, find ways to utilize the strengths of tribal colleges, private institutions, and other providers to expand the educational asset base available to the citizens of North Dakota.
2. Expand the definition of institutional clients to include nontraditional students, employers, and other groups in addition to the traditional student body, which has been the hallmark of the University System.

3. Create a delivery system that can make these intellectual assets accessible to citizens throughout the state by using:
 - Learning centers.
 - Technology.
4. Provide the staff leadership necessary to create new financing, resource allocation, and accountability mechanisms.
5. Create a culture, policies, and practices which support and reward entrepreneurial behavior and responsiveness to clients on the part of campus leaders and staff.
6. Develop the information systems and processes to ensure accountability can be, and is, demonstrated in accordance with the agreed-upon measures.

Campuses

1. Create unique, high-quality institutional strengths - Capacities which serve to make the University System a stronger enterprise and one which is aligned with the needs of the state and its citizens.
2. Collaborate with others in utilizing these strengths in ways that serve the identified needs of clients throughout the state. Minimize the barriers to accessing these assets.
3. Develop internal values, policies, and behaviors which encourage and reward entrepreneurship and responsiveness to the needs of clients.
4. Strengthen ties to clients by engaging them in meaningful relationships and developing mutually rewarding partnerships. Become engaged campuses.
5. Develop academic programs that help students understand the application of their knowledge at places of employment and in the larger society.
6. Put in place those mechanisms to ensure their end of the "flexibility for accountability" bargain is upheld.

Private sector

1. Work with institutions to ensure education providers understand expectations regarding skills and knowledge of college graduates.
2. Collaborate with institutions in ensuring students gain an appreciation for application of their learning--internships, mentorships, etc.
3. Participate in statewide efforts to expand and diversify the economy of the state.