Discussion of Draft Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education in Connecticut

Planning Commission for Higher Education
Hartford, Connecticut
January 20, 2015
1. **Increase education levels of the adult population of the state to**
   - Ensure that the state will have a workforce with the skills needed by a competitive economy
   - Provide citizens with the tools needed to participate in an increasingly complex society
   - Over time, reduce socioeconomic disparities and, thereby, improve the quality of life in the state’s cities and towns.
   - In order to achieve these purposes it is recommended that a target be set of at least 70% of the working age population having a postsecondary credential by 2025 and that, in pursuit of this objective, priority be given to
   - Reducing attainment gaps between white and minorities.
   - Improving attainment of residents of cities’ urban cores, and
   - Increasing the number of adults awarded postsecondary credentials.
   - Ensuring that the quality of education is not only sustained but improved and that credentials awarded reflect the deeper learning required to meet the intent of the goals.

2. **Contribute to the development of a globally competitive economy and sustainable regions and communities.**
   - Increase higher education’s contributions to fostering regions and communities that have globally competitive economies and environments that have the cultural and other amenities essential to attract and retain a highly educated, diverse population.

3. **Affordability: Ensure that higher education is affordable for Connecticut residents**
Lines of Work - 2015

1. Finalize Strategic Master Plan
   – Document prepared for review and approval at February meeting

2. Review list of recommended statutory changes
   – Prepared by NCHEMS
   – Technical changes required to remove inconsistencies and clarify roles, responsibilities, and membership of Commission
   – Results of a more in-depth policy audit

3. Review and comment on recommendations regarding structure of finance policy – budget framework including
   – Base
   – Outcomes
   – Strategic investment
   – Student financial aid

4. Produce a baseline accountability report
   – Draft available for review in September