

2001-02 INTERIM - HIGHER EDUCATION ROUNDTABLE HIGH-PRIORITY ACTION ITEMS

The Higher Education Roundtable reconvened the six task forces formed for the 1999-2000 Higher Education Roundtable—Economic Development Connection, Education Excellence, Flexible and Responsive System, Accessible System, Funding and Rewards, and Sustaining the Vision—to develop high-priority action items. The task forces, chaired by legislative committee members, developed by consensus the following high-priority action items:

Economic Development Connection

1. Review existing state laws and procedures to determine if the laws and procedures are sufficient to protect the privacy and confidentiality of the information of business and industry in partnership with the North Dakota University System, and if not, request that legislation be developed and provided to the interim Higher Education Committee. (Responsibility: Economic Development Connection Task Force)
2. Endorse the New Economy Initiative's state-wide talent pool strategy and the following related five strategic statements:
 - a. Attract and embrace a more diverse workforce that targets innovation and technology and other careers identified by the needs assessment tool.
 - b. Utilize the assets of colleges and universities in attracting and retaining a new economy workforce.
 - c. Develop an aggressive marketing campaign promoting North Dakota's "quality of place."
 - d. Expand workforce training and lifelong learning to match North Dakota's current workforce to new economy opportunities and move to a high-value workforce.
 - e. Become a national model for providing rural preschool through postsecondary education and lifelong learning.

(Responsibility: State Board of Higher Education, higher education institutions, Legislative Assembly, executive branch, private sector)

Education Excellence

1. Continue a strong emphasis on making and keeping faculty salaries competitive. (Responsibility: State Board of Higher Education, higher education institutions)
2. Begin to conceptualize and develop an approach to kindergarten through postsecondary education using a roundtable approach. (Responsibility: State Board of Higher Education, higher education institutions, kindergarten through grade 12)
3. Encourage and strongly support emphasis on experiential learning, including the inclusion

of students with faculty in applied research and other problem-solving activities. (Responsibility: State Board of Higher Education, higher education institutions)

4. Enhance emphasis on research as a means to attract and retain faculty. (Responsibility: State Board of Higher Education, higher education institutions)
5. Consider the establishment of an enhanced state scholarship program. (Responsibility: State Board of Higher Education, higher education institutions)

Flexible and Responsive System

1. Continue and expand the flexibility granted to the North Dakota University System. (Responsibility: Legislative Assembly, State Board of Higher Education)
2. Colleges and universities and the Department of Commerce must continue to establish strategic alliances with state government, businesses and industries, community groups, and federal entities. (Responsibility: State Board of Higher Education, higher education institutions, executive branch)
3. Examine the balance between competition and cooperation in the North Dakota University System and provide mechanisms for guidance. (Responsibility: State Board of Higher Education, higher education institutions)

Accessible System

1. Develop partnerships to ensure students leave kindergarten through grade 12 with the knowledge and skills necessary to function effectively as college and university students. (Responsibility: State Board of Higher Education, higher education institutions, kindergarten through grade 12)
2. Encourage higher education institutions to become more approachable and to provide more assistance to enable older than average students to further their education and skills development. (Responsibility: State Board of Higher Education, higher education institutions)
3. Enhance marketing efforts for recruitment purposes, including informing the public and customers of programs available and program successes. (Responsibility: North Dakota University System, Legislative Assembly)

Funding and Rewards

1. Identify strategies for maximizing campus utilization. (Responsibility: State Board of Higher Education, higher education institutions, private sector)

2. Continue to enhance campus entrepreneurship and partner with state and federal government, private sector, and other entities. (Responsibility: State Board of Higher Education, higher education institutions, private sector)
3. Ensure that focus and rewards are consistent with established North Dakota University System and higher education institutions' goals. (Responsibility: State Board of Higher Education, higher education institutions)
4. Continue higher education special revenue funds continuing appropriation authority, higher education budget requests, budget estimates, and appropriation legislation, and higher education appropriation carryover legislation passed by the 2001 Legislative Assembly. (Responsibility: Legislative Assembly, executive branch, private sector)

Sustaining the Vision

1. Continue the roundtable concept by retaining the structure of the membership and holding annual meetings. (Responsibility: Legislative Council)
2. Develop a clear and concise message of the roundtable which explains the roundtable benefits. (Responsibility: North Dakota University System)
3. "Tell the story" by broadening and intensifying the message to the following:
 - a. General public.
 - b. Business community.
 - c. Legislative Assembly.
 - d. Media.
 - e. North Dakota University System faculty.
 - f. Kindergarten through grade 12.
 (Responsibility: State Board of Higher Education, higher education institutions, Legislative Assembly, executive branch, private sector)