

REPORT ON STATEWIDE LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM WORKFORCE COMMITTEE

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By Lisa Feldner, CIO

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Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

My name is Lisa Feldner and I am the Chief Information Officer for the State of ND. I will provide a report on the Statewide Longitudinal Data System Committee.

As a result of the 2007 legislative session, section 15.1-02-18 was added to ND Century Code establishing a statewide longitudinal data system committee. Longitudinal means *developing over time* or *following a subject over time*. The committee membership is comprised of the agency heads or designees from the Board of Higher Education, the Department of Public Instruction, the Department of Career & Technical Education, Job Service ND, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Human Services, the Chief Information Officer, and one person appointed by the Governor. Prior to this legislation, an informal group, which included much the same membership as identified in the committee, began meeting as they recognized the need to track educational and employment data over time. They needed the ability to combine the existing data from various entities into meaningful reports.

There are data systems in K-12, in higher education, at Job Service ND, and at the Commerce Department. They are good systems and work well for the tasks at which they were intended. However, data does not flow from one system to another so there is no good way to follow students from K-12 through higher education and on to the workforce.

The committee's task is to plan and propose a statewide longitudinal data system which:

- a. Provides for dissemination of management information to stakeholders and partners of state education, training, and employment systems; and
- b. Uses data from educational and workforce systems as central sources of longitudinal data.

Along with this direction, an FTE at ITD and \$50,000 were provided by the legislature.

Status

- Committee formation is in progress.
- The Governor has appointed Tami Wahl, Policy Advisor from the Governor's Office, to the committee and has appointed the CIO as the chair.
- ITD is in the process of hiring the FTE and hopes to have the individual on board within the next six weeks.
- DPI is applying for a \$50,000 planning grant designed for this type of initiative.
- The committee's first priority will be to draft policies and procedures with regard to data sharing, privacy, and security between and among agencies and educational entities. These policies must be in place in order for DPI to apply for a large National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) grant. These grants are awarded to State Education Agencies for the purpose of building educational data warehouses to be used for analysis, research and federal reporting. The NCES has made it clear that they are interested in supplementing statewide efforts that have a good plan of action and state support for the initiative.