

## 2007-08 INTERIM - HIGHER EDUCATION ROUNDTABLE RECOMMENDATIONS

Task Force	Recommendations
Education attainment	<p>Market degrees that take less than four years to complete</p> <p>Focus on the American Indian subpopulation</p> <p>Prepare students for success by providing tools to assess colleges, programs, and careers that are the best fit for their skills and abilities</p> <p>Expand career advising to send students to college "with a purpose" and develop programs to assist freshmen with undecided majors</p> <p>Show how majors can relate to occupational needs (e.g., an art student learning about graphic design)</p> <p>Teach money management in high schools</p> <p>Use higher education as a coach to assist students to prepare for success</p> <p>Use higher education to provide feedback to high schools (This could be a role for the statewide longitudinal data system.)</p> <p>Develop a graduation standard for high school</p> <p>Educate the working age population to the level of the best in the world and consider salary levels paid in the state</p> <p>Focus efforts at the associate's degree or certificate level to meet state needs (This level also moves students onto the economic "onramp" and prepares them for higher levels of education.)</p> <p>Focus on the American Indian population as a major growth segment that will be the state's future workforce</p> <p>Address the needs of the adult population when developing higher education delivery systems</p> <p>Implement systematic P-20 career counseling in North Dakota</p>
Accessibility	<p>Develop higher education centers</p> <p>Make higher education affordable for all economic backgrounds</p> <p>Use lifelong learning to promote access to all demographics</p> <p>Expand online education opportunities, which are important, especially for place-bound students, adults, and other populations</p> <p>Create awareness about opportunities--colleges, programs, and jobs--available in the state</p> <p>Market and communicate with nontraditional students and to targeted geographical areas</p> <p>Monitor the availability of programs and courses to ensure they are available at the times and places they are needed</p> <p>Ensure policies and infrastructure are in place to serve older-than-average and other nontraditional students</p> <p>Continue creative delivery, partnerships, and collaborations</p> <p>Ensure appropriate financial aid is available</p> <p>Encourage employer partnerships with higher education for the training and development of employees</p> <p>Continue to upgrade infrastructure such as the Internet and the Northern Tier Network</p> <p>Provide an opportunity to allow anyone who wants to go to college the ability to be prepared and have the opportunity to attend college</p> <p>Consider addressing accessibility barriers such as economic and financial (e.g., time commitments, job duties, and family responsibilities) and psychological (e.g., leaving home for the first time, lack of encouragement and advisement, coming from a small school to a larger school, the stigma of going to a community college, etc.)</p> <p>Make access financially affordable, especially for online education (The online education cost should not be higher than on-campus courses.)</p> <p>Maintain affordability, particularly at community colleges, which are low-cost access points</p> <p>Review higher education funding to support online costs as well as on-campus costs</p> <p>Maintain efficient pathways between degrees and support partnerships and collaboration which improve statewide access</p>

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Contribution to economic development	<p>Raise the skill level of North Dakota's workforce to the highest level</p> <p>Focus resources to build workforce skills that meet the economic development needs of the state</p> <p>Provide higher education classes in the workplace</p> <p>Offer shorter-term programs</p> <p>Expand workforce recruitment efforts to address economic development needs</p> <p>Provide career and vocational advising in high schools, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify career projections for the next five years</li> <li>• Inform students of skills needed to fill jobs</li> <li>• Assess students' interests and skills using programs such as WorkKeys</li> <li>• Keep students' goals as a priority</li> </ul> <p>Offer higher-level classes in high school</p> <p>Expand university internships with North Dakota businesses</p> <p>Further develop opportunities involving centers of excellence</p> <p>Enhance entrepreneurship opportunities</p> <p>Develop the ability to immediately respond to workforce needs with new programs and provide financial resources</p> <p>Conduct regular meetings between the North Dakota University System and the private sector</p> <p>Provide tax breaks and opportunities to encourage recent college graduates to remain in the state</p> <p>Continue the excitement of the research currently being conducted through programs such as the centers of excellence and the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research</p> <p>Research the feasibility of a tax deduction being used as an incentive for businesses to work with universities</p>
Workforce needs	<p>Develop the ability for higher education to respond rapidly to workforce needs and adjust resource allocations</p> <p>Allow higher education to continue a relationship with private industry, especially targeted industries</p> <p>Work with businesses to develop curriculum and programs to meet future workforce needs</p> <p>Be responsive to workforce needs</p> <p>Expand internships in partnership with North Dakota businesses</p> <p>Provide employer feedback to higher education on the skill levels of interns and graduates</p> <p>Provide an office at each university that allows businesses to communicate directly with the university</p> <p>Provide more distance education to meet business needs across the state</p> <p>Provide incentives for students or universities to meet selected workforce needs</p>