



December 14, 2015

Dear Governor Inslee and Honorable Members of the Legislature:

We are pleased to submit the 2015 Roadmap, a report that measures Washington's educational attainment. Early results provide the evidence that we have made only modest progress. We must do much more to reach Washington's legislatively adopted educational attainment goals, which are designed to meet our state's economic and workforce needs.

The report shows the overall attainment gain is inadequate to meet the state's goals by 2023. Due to changes in the economy and population, enrollment levels have dropped as individuals returned to work. While reemployment is important, completion of a credential is essential to wage growth and reducing underemployment. These are serious challenges, and this report makes clear that the attainment goals will be beyond reach without substantially higher levels of postsecondary enrollment and completion. We cannot wait until students' last years of high school to promote postsecondary enrollment, nor can we wait for the next cyclical surge in nontraditional enrollment.

As our population grows in diversity, our success depends on greater attention to underserved populations. High school graduation rates remain unacceptably low for many students of color and for students who are low-income, in special education, English language learners, homeless, or in foster care.

We need many more working adults to obtain a postsecondary credential to reach Roadmap goals. Without a postsecondary credential, workers are more at risk of unemployment and underemployment.

Washington can rise to the challenge. State efforts can change this trajectory if they are substantial, sustained, and coordinated. We have an excellent education and postsecondary system that can, with the necessary support, implement successful policies and innovations, improve efficiencies, and expand capacity. As the state's P-20 council, we are committed to working together to implement the Every Student Succeeds Act (2015), which provides greater flexibility to support student attainment.

We thank you for your 2015 investments in early learning, K-12, and postsecondary education. Yet the state's investment in postsecondary education is still lower than in the 2007-09 biennium, and pressure to further invest in K-12 is ongoing. We urge you to support our request to invest \$19 million in the State Need Grant program, provide \$531,000 to support the infrastructure of the College Bound Scholarship, and continue your commitment to educational success of all Washington students.

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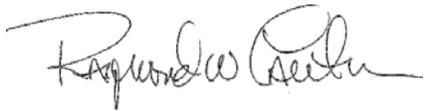
Sincerely,



Maud Daudon, Chair



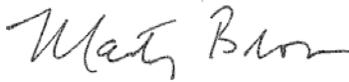
Karen Lee, Vice Chair



Ray Lawton, Secretary



Paul Francis



Marty Brown



Gil Mendoza



Jeff Charbonneau

Eric Pattison



Susana Reyes

Attachment: 2015 Roadmap Report