

**For-Profit School System Study  
June 28, 2016  
Kick Off Meeting Notes**

Meeting Location

Washington Student Achievement Council, 917 Lakeridge Way SW, Olympia, Washington

Attendee Organizations

- Northwest Career Colleges Federation
- The William D. Ruckelshaus Center
- Washington State Department of Financial Institutions
- Washington State Department of Licensing
- Washington State House of Representatives Higher Education Committee
- Washington State Office of the Attorney General
- Washington State Senate Committee Services
- Washington State Senate Democratic Caucus
- Washington State Senate Republican Caucus
- Washington State Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board
- Washington Student Achievement Council

Desired Outcomes Voiced by Participants

- Consistent reporting mechanism; reduce duplication; set the record straight
- Capture the most accurate picture
- Uniformity in regulation, greater consistency
- What data we want, why we want it, and then define that data so all parties know exactly what it means.
- Capture the student perspective/interests
- Identify overlaps in jurisdiction and gain better understanding of the full sector
- Understanding of how agencies manage consumer protection

Project Tasks & Timeline

Chris Page (contracted project lead from The Ruckelshaus Center) gave an overview of The Ruckelshaus Center and discussed the timeline, tasks, and deliverables:

- Deliverables driven by the budget proviso, to be in report due January 1, 2017 (draft by end of November, final 12/15/16)
- Situation assessment: from July through November, The Ruckelshaus Center will talk to representatives from each key category to gather perspectives to be summarized in report.

- Technical contractor (and information needed for potential facilitated set of meetings) to be vetted early in situation assessment, hoping to have contractor on board in September.
- Report will also recommend whether or not a collaborative process would be appropriate.
- Facilitated meetings, if deemed needed, would occur between January and June 2017.
- Interviews to be confidential, list of interviewees to be developed via research, conversations with central parties (agencies named in budget proviso, Northwest Career Colleges Federation).

### Potential Challenges and Concerns

- Understanding student voices.
- Career College versus community colleges: two completely different systems. 400 businesses, many mom-and-pop style, versus a state system supported by taxes.
- Broader than just for-profit institutions. Results could have broader implications.
- Regulations on data collection may be imposed on for-profit and not for profit.
- Organizational structures with this sector can include schools operating in Washington that are part of a multi-school group, with headquarters out of state.
- Accreditation:
  - Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) may not get renewed as an accreditation agency. If that occurs, California has 90 schools that could lose their licensing and have to close (if they don't have other accreditation lined up). 50,000 students will be impacted, will need loan forgiveness on a huge scale.
  - Washington State may waive the accreditation requirement in the short term as long as they submit a plan for accreditation. Would not have immediate closures like in California and Texas.
  - In our state, accreditation is not a requirement for license (see charter schools, ITT Tech, Everett College). Those schools will not have accreditation from a recognized accreditation agency. It's the *recognition* that becomes problematic.
  - If no longer in compliance with rules, could result in the suspension of enrollment. Other option, if no longer in strict compliance = suspend new enrollment. State agency would work with school under waiver process until plan is received and approved.
- Communication plan to provide information to policymakers is going to be vital.

### Next Steps

- Student Achievement Council will host webpage for this project on its website to post meeting notes and project resources (e.g., Oregon report from similar process).
- Chris Page will talk with legislative staff regarding getting student voices into the mix.
- Next meeting will be held in early September 2016.

*Notes recorded and compiled by Autumn Fielding, The William D. Ruckelshaus Center*