An Overview of the 2013 Listening Tour

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Focused Attention

Increasing Attainment

- Readiness
- Affordability
- Capacity & Success
- Technology
- Funding

The Washington Student Achievement Council

Critical Crossroads: A Call for Action
The 2012 Strategic Action Plan for Educational Attainment
December 2012
What’s working well, what needs improvement?
On Wednesday, February 20, the Student Achievement Council heard from over 30 educators, school administrators, students, and community leaders in Seattle. Key themes discussed include:

Theme Area #1: Socio-economic disparities influence educational outcomes, but educational institutions can remedy socio-economic disparities.
Throughout the Listening Tour, the Council has heard about the profound effect that socio-economic factors have on educational outcomes throughout the educational system. What is becoming clear, however, is that we can turn that situation on its head by partnering higher educational institutions with communities, K-12 schools, and community support services to deliver an integrated support structure that enables communities to improve educational outcomes.

Programs such as the Seattle University Youth Initiative have already proven the potential of this approach, having helped Bailey Gatzert Elementary — which has a 96% Free/Reduced Lunch population — achieve the greatest test score gain in the Seattle Public School system last year.

This supports the goals of the University as well: about 1,000 Seattle University students are involved in the program, and school administrators cite the tremendous benefit this has had on their educations.

Theme Area #2: Educational structures must be coordinated so we can deliver services that will otherwise fall through the cracks.
Many services that are essential for student success have distributed responsibility throughout the education system, and when nobody is “in charge” of them, they are likely to be delivered inconsistently. For instance, the more graduating high school students who fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the more federal education dollars that are likely to flow into our state. But, as Mary Jean Ryan of the Road Map Project put it, “Whose job is it to help? Nobody’s job. We need coordinated structures so we can deliver these services that fall in the grey area.”
A Spotlight on the Issues

New Student Achievement Council strives to maximize the many positives

Editorials / Opinion

Washington's new Student Achievement Council promising for higher ed

The state Legislature's intended replacement for the Higher Education Coordinating Board is a governing body with more legislative muscle and connection to the Legislature and colleges and universities.

Seattle Times Editorial
Publication

Summary

1. Attendees
2. Themes Synthesis
3. Best Practices
Themes

May 23, 2013 The Washington Student Achievement Council

Collaboration and Innovation

Socioeconomic Considerations

Funding

Flexibly Approaches

Systems Approach

Change Carefully
Themes

- Collaboration and Innovation
  - Encourage local collaboration and scale up innovation
  - Connect schools to communities, invest in data
  - Focus on student achievement. Set the Roadmap and stick with it

- Socioeconomic Considerations
  - Encourage local collaboration and scale up innovation
  - Strengthen workforce development opportunities; alternative assessments
  - Direct funds to programs that will impact student achievement

- Funding
  - Collabrate and Innovation
  - Change Carefully
  - Create frameworks, not structures, to incentivize change
  - Focus on student achievement. Set the Roadmap and stick with it

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Discussion and Questions

Visit the Roadmap website:
www.wsac.wa.gov/PlanningAndResearch/Roadmap

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