



December 2005

The Scholarship Coalition: A Proposal to Establish a Statewide Scholarship Clearinghouse

Board staff and representatives of organizations committed to helping students attend college have been meeting informally to discuss ways to promote college scholarships for students. Members of this group, known as the “Scholarship Coalition,” are concerned about the barriers that private donors face in setting up scholarships and the difficulties that students face in learning about and applying for scholarships.

The Scholarship Coalition is proposing the development of a statewide scholarship clearinghouse that would be administered by the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB). Coalition members will present details of the proposed scholarship clearinghouse to the board and discuss next steps.

The coalition plans to submit proposals to various foundations requesting funds to assist with further planning for the clearinghouse. The funds would allow the coalition to hire a consultant to more clearly define the need, identify costs, resolve implementation issues, and develop a timeline for implementation. The coalition is considering a tentative launch in fall 2007.

Similar Scholarship Clearinghouse in Oregon

The proposed Washington clearinghouse would be modeled in many respects after an Oregon scholarship clearinghouse, administered by the Oregon Student Assistance Commission. The clearinghouse enables donors to reach thousands of students and enables students to apply for multiple scholarships by submitting one common Web-based application. Last year, the commission helped publicize more than 300 private donor scholarships. It received more than 7,000 student applications and nearly 3,000 students received awards totaling \$10 million.

Following are key characteristics of the Oregon scholarship clearinghouse program:

- All private scholarship programs publicized by the commission are specifically designated for Oregon students.
- The scholarships are not dedicated to specific colleges. (Donors that want to establish institution-specific scholarships are directed to college foundations.)

- Students can submit one Web-based application and be considered for multiple scholarships.
- Applicants are not charged any fees, although donors may be charged fees depending on the level of service provided by the commission.

In addition to Oregon, Vermont and Nebraska also offer state-specific clearinghouses. For more information about these clearinghouses, please visit the following Web sites:

Oregon: http://www.osac.state.or.us/private_awarded.html

Vermont: <http://services.vvac.org/ilwwcm/connect/VVAC/Pay+for+College/>

Nebraska: <http://www.educationquest.org/about.asp> (see “scholarshipQUEST”)

Next Steps

The Scholarship Coalition may recommend a “phased-in” implementation, with a Phase I focus on publicizing the availability of scholarships. A common application approach may be added to the services later.

The coalition will be seeking grants to fund a position to do planning.

HECB staff requests that the board approve a resolution expressing general support for the clearinghouse and encouraging staff to continue to work with the coalition to further determine the need and costs of the clearinghouse and identify and resolve other potential implementation issues.

Members of the Scholarship Coalition

Diane Barone-Gillian	Education Assistance Foundation
Matt Birkeland	The Seattle Foundation
Douglas Breithaupt	College Planning Network
Randy Brians	Pride Foundation
Becki Collins	Pierce College District
Anne Katahira	The Seattle Foundation
Krista Kipp	Washington Dollars for Scholars
Danette Knudson	Northwest Education Loan Association
Paula Koontz	Northstar
Rick Millerick	Washington Dollars for Scholars
Michael Richard	The Seattle Times
Marla Skelley	Northwest Education Loan Association
Lorraine Solaegui	Washington Education Foundation
Betty Gebhardt	Higher Education Coordinating Board
Betty Lochner	Higher Education Coordinating Board

RESOLUTION NO. 05-26

WHEREAS, There is considerable need for private philanthropy to support students through scholarships; and

WHEREAS, It is difficult for potential donors to develop and administer new scholarship programs or to effectively reach a wide audience of students; and

WHEREAS, Searching for scholarships is a daunting and difficult task for many students; and

WHEREAS, A group of Washington organizations, known as the "Scholarship Coalition," has reviewed ways to improve the availability of private scholarships for Washington students; and

WHEREAS, the Scholarship Coalition is recommending further study and development of a clearinghouse that would help Washington students access private scholarships and help private donors publicize their scholarships to Washington students; and

WHEREAS, Oregon and other states have launched similar successful programs; and

WHEREAS, The coalition believes that the administration and coordination of a scholarship clearinghouse is an appropriate role for the Higher Education Coordinating Board; and

WHEREAS, Additional work is needed to develop the clearinghouse concept;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Higher Education Coordinating Board authorizes staff to continue working with the coalition to further determine the need for the program, identify administrative costs, and resolve potential implementation issues.

Adopted:

December 15, 2005

Attest:

Bob Craves, Chair

Jesus Hernandez, Secretary