

State Council of Higher Education
Interim director's report
January 10, 2012

SCHEV incentive fund recommendations. Following the special SCHEV meeting in November, SCHEV staff prepared a proposed allocation of degree incentive funds and sent it to the budget staff in the Governor's office and the General Assembly. While the timing did not permit the allocation formula to be used for the Governor's introduced budget, we believe it will be considered as the Governor and the General Assembly develop the final budget.

Performance measures workgroup. The Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2011 directs the Higher Education Advisory Committee to establish performance measures to support an incentive funding model. SCHEV director of restructuring, Jim Alessio, is leading the effort. He is establishing a workgroup made up of representatives from institutions and legislative staff. The work will proceed through 2012.

New college presidents. James Madison University and George Mason University announced new presidents. Jonathan Alger, senior vice president and general counsel at Rutgers University, will lead JMU, and Angel Cabrera, president of the Thunderbird School of Global Management, will lead GMU.

New College Institute. The NCI board last week announced that it had hired former state Senator William Wampler to be its next executive director. In November, SCHEV staff joined VCCS Chancellor DuBois and visited New College Institute officials in Martinsville to discuss issues relative to student enrollment and retention.

Library Advisory Committee. In late November I met with public and private college and university library deans and directors to talk about academic libraries, resource sharing, and budget issues. I invited the library directors to make a presentation to SCHEV members at a meeting later this year.

Outstanding Faculty Awards. Council members Mary Haddad and Johanna Chase led the review and selection of the 2012 Outstanding Faculty Awards recipients. The recipients will be announced January 25. The awards ceremony will be held February 16.

St. Paul's College. Council member Gil Bland and I met with St. Paul's College interim president Eddie Moore at the Lawrenceville campus. We discussed the challenges facing the college and opportunities that might exist to help overcome the challenges.

Virginia Military Friendly Policy. SCHEV staff made a presentation at the December meeting of the Governor's Higher Education Commission, to convey elements of a proposed policy to support military and veteran students at Virginia public institutions. The Commission endorsed the recommendation that Virginia institute a "Military Friendly Public Higher Education Policy." Staff plans to introduce an action item at the March Council meeting, to create a Military Education Advisory Committee.

Missouri Southern State University. SCHEV director of policy research and data warehousing Tod Massa delivered the commencement speech at MSSU, where he did his undergraduate work. Located in Joplin, the university hosted the Red Cross and other disaster agencies following the F5 tornado in May, which destroyed about one-third of the city.

SCHEV Holiday Celebration. Council members Steve Haner and Whitt Clement brought greetings to SCHEV staff at its holiday celebration in December.