

**State Council of Higher Education
Director's report
September 25, 2012**

Tuition and fee report. We completed and submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly the annual tuition and fee report. The Governor celebrated the fact that tuition and fee increases were the lowest in 10 years, in part because of the appropriation of additional general fund support. Council Chairman Gil Bland spoke at the Governor's press conference. Other Council members attending were Mary Haddad, Steve Haner, and Katie Webb.

Outstanding Faculty Awards. College and university officials are busily preparing their nominations for this year's Outstanding Faculty Awards program. Nominations are due to SCHEV October 3. Please mark your calendars for February 12, 2013, for the Outstanding Faculty Awards ceremony (date is tentative, pending final contract negotiations with hotel). This is a special event that celebrates faculty at our public and private colleges and universities.

Marketing Virginia partnership. In cooperation with the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, we have completed an agreement with college and university presidents designed to increase the number of businesses that consider Virginia for expansion and growth. We are working with VEDP and the Governor's office to announce the partnership at a public event.

JLARC study of higher education. We met with staff of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, which is undertaking a two-year study of the cost efficiency of higher education (HJR 108). JLARC staff addressed the presidents at our monthly meeting in August. The wide-ranging study is designed, in part, to support the goals of the Virginia Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2011.

License plate program. The Department of Motor Vehicles reported that it disbursed \$666,255 to Virginia's colleges and universities from license plate sales last year. Institutions are required to use the revenue from the program for student financial aid. The largest recipient is Virginia Tech. Bluefield College met the threshold for the first time.

Out and about. Kirsten Nelson and I continue to meet with legislators and others. In addition to listening to their concerns about higher education in Virginia, we have discussed with them the SCHEV priorities (academic quality and productivity; student success; efficiency, innovation and incentives; and clear and measurable goals and results), the recent tuition and fee report, preliminary budget recommendations, and the Virginia Longitudinal Data System.