

Economic Recovery Commission Education Committee

Minutes of November 30, 2009

Commissioners Present:

Judith Gethner, Chair
Gino Bonanotte
Mohina Ahluwalia

Marty Singer
Ross Glickman

Support Staff Present

Heidi Biederman, Consultant
Donald Nylin, Consultant

Qian Wang, Researcher
Jennifer Weisensee, State of Illinois

Visitors

Vicki Miranda, Elgin Community College (via phone)
Elaine S. Johnson, Illinois Community College Board
LaVon Nelson, Illinois Community College Board
Geoffrey Obrzut, Illinois Community College Board
Judy Erwin, Executive Director, Illinois Board of Higher Education (via phone)

Education Committee Mission

The Committee will examine the structure of the Illinois workforce, current and future employer needs and patterns of job migration in and out of state. Concurrently, the Committee will analyze efforts by Illinois and other states to prepare their work forces for the job markets of tomorrow. Based on its work, the Committee will recommend steps the State should start taking now to have the most capable and competitive workforce in the future.

1. Review of Research on the Community College Systems:

A. Qian Wang reviewed briefly the research she had shared with the committee, copies of which each have.

B. Elgin Community College: Program for connecting Education to Employment: Vicki Miranda

1) Elgin Community College worked with three hospitals in their district to create training programs for the jobs below RN needed in the hospitals. 98% of the students enrolled found employment within 3 weeks of completing their studies.

2) ECC has similar, but not as extensive programs in several other areas.

3) Ongoing contact with business and industry leaders is maintained to identify cur-

- rent and future job needs and training required to fill the positions.
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- 4) Enrollments are way up, due to costs of higher education and the current economy.
 - 5) Modifications have had to be made because of the larger enrollments, such as restricting class sizes, dropping some sections of courses.
 - 6) In some cases, courses have been changed to shadowing and internships instead of the full courses previously used.
 - 7) Evidence that the concept of school/community partnership is valid is that employers come to the colleges asking for training programs to fill identified needs.
 - 8) College has Job Developers who continually meet with businesses to find current and future needs.
 - 9) Have 27 CEO's who meet quarterly with school reps to discuss needs.

C, What is Happening Throughout Illinois within the Community College Programs:
Elaine S. Johnson, LaVon Nelson and Geoffrey Obrzut

- 1) All Community Colleges have a similar school/business/industry system for planning.
- 2) Advisory committees exist for every technical program leading to certification or a 2 year degree.
- 3) Southern Illinois and Eastern Illinois Health Care Initiatives have as a goal to retain trained people in Illinois. Both have on-line course work for LPNs to move to RNs.
- 4) Co-op programs include job shadowing and internship funded with State and Federal dollars through the Illinois Board of Higher Education.
- 5) Community Colleges have Small Business Centers which assist in small business start-ups. In rural communities people look to the community college to be an "engine." In one year, through these centers:
 - a. 185,000 businesses and individuals were involved
 - b. 250 businesses were started
 - c. 260 business were retained in the state or local area
- 6) Problems:
 - a. Illinois is in jeopardy of losing Federal Carl Perkins funds because required matching funds are not allocated
 - b. MAP (reference not in meeting notes)
 - c. Career and Adult Education (not elaborated upon)
 - d. Operating budgets are down @.3% while credit hours are up 4.1%
 - e. Funding sources:
 - (1) 1/3 from property taxes, but tax caps limits availability in some areas
 - (2) 1/3 from tuition

- (3) 1/3 from State, less and less, based upon 2 year old data
- (4) Local businesses donate equipment or make their place of business available as a training site.
- f. Cash flow problems because of the way the State pays their share.
- g. Where one lives in the state makes a big difference in what is available.

7) Needs as seen by the Community College Board:

- a. Negotiate their budget directly, not through the Illinois Board of Higher Education
- b. Base the budget on more recent data than two years old data
- c. Create programs in Health-Care Informatics

A report is coming to the Committee from the Community College Board staff at the meeting.

2. Review of Research on the Higher Education Systems:

A. Qian Wang reviewed briefly the research she had shared with the committee, copies of which each have.

B. Presentation: Illinois Board of Higher Education: Judy Erwin, Executive Director

- 1) The Board of Higher Education works with both the Illinois State Board of Education and the Community College Board.
- 2) They are looking at the state from early childhood until people enter the work force.
- 3) Illinois has no plan for developing human capital, no identification of skills sets for the non-college bound to the college bound.
- 4) The needs assessment can be found on the IBHE web site. It shows, for instance:
 - a. Only population growth in Illinois is in metro areas among Latino and African-American
 - b. Highest achievement gap is between white and other
 - c. Fewer low income are going to post-secondary schooling than others
 - d. Low income and minority have the highest post-secondary drop out rate
 - e. A credential is needed to earn a living wage, which requires post-secondary education/training

5) Conclusion: Illinois needs to increase expectations, rigor and alignment of the curriculum across all levels of schooling.

- 6) The General Assembly approve the creation of a Pre-school to 20 Council on Education. The Business Council introduced the legislation.
- 7) Illinois has lots of systemic issues related to education

3. Next Steps

A. After some discussion, it was suggested that we create two matrices related to “Build the Brains, Stop the Drain.”

B. The Committee began the development of the “Build the Brains” portion. Marty Singer agreed to start the “Stop the Drain.” (See draft of “Build the Brains” which follows.)

C. Assignment: All members suggest elements to go into the various cells of the matrix.

1) This may be done on SharePoint or by emailing suggestions to Don Nylin for *Build...*, and Marty Singer for *Stop...*

2) Review of the matrices and decisions will be a major part of the December 14 meeting.

D. There was some discussion about the need to hear from someone connected with the Illinois State Board of Education (Pre-school through Grade 12). The Chair will decide.

4. Next Meeting: *(note change in starting time)*

Monday, December 14 3:00-4:30 pm

Urban Retail Properties
900 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 900

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Nylin, ESC Consultant

Attachment: “Build the Brains” matrix