

Gene J. Colin
Chair



James E. Sulton, Jr., Ph.D.
Executive Director

STATE OF WASHINGTON
HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

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June 15, 2006

Dear Colleagues:

Attached for your information is a preliminary agenda for the upcoming meeting of the HECB Advisory Council set for Thursday, June 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Pierce College in Puyallup.

We have been eagerly anticipating addressing the important issue of diversity in higher education for a number of reasons. The HECB is planning to discuss system-wide diversity at its meeting on July 27 at Grays Harbor Community College. At that time, the board will review data and relay information pertinent to the recruitment and enrollment of students; hiring, promotion and tenure of faculty; and improving campus environment for students at all levels and in all sectors of higher education in the state.

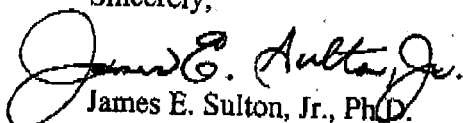
The HECB sponsored a meeting at Highline Community College on May 18, 2006, which brought together diversity program coordinators and student services directors from two- and four-year public and private institutions of higher learning throughout the state. It is important to note that this was the first time that such a representative group of institutional representatives have conferred in recent memory on this vitally important subject. It is therefore essential that Advisory Council members offer their insight and perspectives on what can be done *now* to improve diversity in higher education across the state.

Obviously, we need to rise to the challenge at a time when affirmative action and diversity programs are increasingly under fire. In the past, initiatives such as Proposition 209 in California and Initiative 200 in Washington have had a dampening effect on any effort to enhance the opportunities of students and professionals of color on our campuses.

Most recently, the U.S. Superior Court has decided to hear two new bellwether cases regarding affirmative action, one of which involves Seattle public schools. Our state therefore remains at the forefront of national discussions concerning diversity in education; it could not be more appropriate to review the data and consider options as to how we may best move forward from this point.

We look forward to seeing you next Thursday at Pierce College.

Sincerely,


James E. Sulton, Jr., Ph.D.
Executive Director

Attachment



M E E T I N G

HECB ADVISORY COUNCIL

June 22, 2006

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

College Center Building, Multi-purpose Room

Pierce College

1601 39th Avenue SE, Puyallup

ENHANCING DIVERSITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

AGENDA

1. Conducting a System-wide Audit
2. Undergraduate Students
3. Graduate and Professional Students
4. Faculty
5. Administrators
6. Campus Climate
7. Teaching, Learning and the Curriculum
8. Making A Difference