Structure, Timeline & Outcomes

The Complete College Ohio Task Force will develop and release a report that articulates an overarching framework for increasing the rate and number of college completions in Ohio. This report will build a comprehensive, cohesive action plan that is (a) focused on closing gaps in college completion rates, (b) ensures access and quality, and (c) builds upon strategies with documented records of success.

The report will be developed with the following guiding principles:

- Solutions must be student-focused.
- All completions – workforce certificates, associate degrees and bachelor degrees – are valued and need to be increased.
- We want to increase access and success; increased completion should not constrain access.
- We want to build on existing and previous student success initiatives and campus experience knowledge.
- Data should drive decisions.
- We need systemic approaches, not simply "boutique" programs.
- The academic quality of programs must not be compromised.
- One size does not fit all. Solutions must recognize different institutions have different student needs.

Content for the Complete College Ohio Task Force report will be developed by three working groups. The purpose of each working group is to develop a set of clear, actionable recommendations for the Task Force to consider for inclusion in the final report. Each recommendation will frame high leverage strategies known to increase student success and completion. Each strategy will include actions that students can take, actions that institutions can take and actions that policymakers can support. Each working group is comprised of college and university faculty and staff with knowledge and experience relevant to the working group's focus. Each group is led by two co-chairs from the Task Force as well as an Ohio Board of Regents staff liaison. The three working groups are as follows:

- **Ready for College** Working Group will address strategies that secondary and postsecondary institutions need to deploy to ensure students have the academic foundations necessary to be successful in their certificate and degree programs.
- **No Time to Waste** Working Group will focus upon strategies that can reduce time to degree as well as minimize students drifting through college without earning a degree.
- **Help Me Cross the Finish Line** Working Group will explore approaches that will reward student progress and identify incentives that can increase completion.

In order to make certain the outcomes are successful, working group co-chairs, members and Ohio Board of Regents staff will seek to be informed by existing research, best practice and policy innovation. This research – as well as input from national experts – will be identified and collected during the initial phase of the Task Force's work. Given the compressed timeframe, it will be unlikely that the working group will commission new research.

No Time to Waste Working Group

Data show that for full- and part-time students alike, time to degree or credential has increased over the past forty years. (cite CCA) There are many reasons for these increases, but as Ohio is facing a critical moment where we need to significantly increase completion rates and numbers, we need to reverse the trend of it taking longer to complete. Colleges and universities must reinforce a sense of urgency with students, faculty and staff by making sure programs and tools exist that shorten the path, keep students on track and help them accelerate their learning.

The No Time to Waste Working Group will initiate its work toward recommendations by considering the following questions:

Shorten the Path – What actions can be taken to enable students to accumulate credit for college-level learning that has taken place before enrolling in college as well as ensure credits already earned count toward students' certificates or degrees?

- Advanced Placement & Dual Enrollment – *enable qualified students to earn college credit prior to high school graduation.*
- Prior Learning Assessments (PLA) - *measure what a student has learned outside of the college classroom, evaluate whether that learning is college level and then determine the equivalent number of college credits.*
    - *College Level Examination Program*
    - *Credit for Military Training based on American Council of Education (ACE) guidelines*
    - *Credit for Business and Industry Training based on ACE guidelines*
    - *Portfolio Assessments*
- Statewide Guaranteed Transfer of Credit – *expand implementation of Ohio's programs to guarantee statewide transfer of credit through approaches such as Transfer Assurance Guides (TAGs), Ohio Transfer Module (OTM) and Career-Technical Credit Transfer (CT2)*

Keep on Track – What actions can be taken to ensure that students receive services to stay on track to finish their degrees?

- Academic Pathways - *ensure all programs are organized into clear, sequential, term-by-term outlines of what a typical student's course load should be, including both required courses and electives.*
- Intrusive Advising – *implement proactive systems of advising that reduce chances for students to drift through their college career, foster meaningful relationships and support warning systems if students begin to stray from their certificate or degree path.*
- Statewide Guaranteed Transfer Advising Tools- *expand and implement the tools available to students to take full advantage of Ohio's Statewide Guaranteed Transfer initiatives and plan their paths to degree as they transfer.*

Help Me Accelerate – What actions can be taken to restructure delivery of degree and certificate programs in ways that speed completion, reduce uncertainty in scheduling and improve retention and completion?

- Programmatic Scheduling – *Frame degrees and certificates – especially career-technical programs - in programmatic blocks, scheduling them toward accelerated program completion that allows working students to attend classes during an established time block, five days a week, with an acknowledged and specific completion date.*
- Collaborative Programs – *Increase opportunities for collaborative degree and certificate programs between University System of Ohio partners. These collaborative programs include – but aren't limited to – concurrent enrollment between Adult Workforce Education programs and community colleges, 2 + 2 partnerships and other opportunities to fully articulate programs.*
- Three-Year Degrees – *Help foster the availability of 3-year baccalaureate degrees as required in the Ohio fiscal year 2012-2013 budget bill in order to ease the financial burden on students while still providing them with a quality education.*

The questions and tactics listed above are intended to serve as a starting point and may be revised by the working group. Each working group is responsible for articulating strategies to maximize completion for their subject area; these strategies will be reported to the task force to be incorporated into a single report. Recommendations should include specific actions that can be undertaken by colleges and universities, students, and policymakers for scalable implementation. For each question, please consider:

1. What research exists?
2. Who does it well? (with both policy and practice)
   a. In Ohio?
   b. Nationally?
3. What does success look like and how will we measure?
4. What data do we have?
5. What data do we need?

Key Milestone Dates:

General outline of milestones follows. Committee chairs will add additional milestones and meetings that reflect needs of working group may be added.

August 2, 2012 – Working group meeting to discuss frames and topics. Discuss resources that need to be researched, identify national experts, and solicit input on leading Ohio campuses.

August 13, 2012 – Present outcomes of August 2 meeting to Complete College Ohio Task Force meeting at Bowling Green State University. Presentation on Completion by Design.

August 21, 2012 – Conference call to discuss what resources and information have been received and process to review and incorporate into recommendations. Research and national experts identified.

September 4, 2012 – Outline of preliminary recommendations drafted.

September 11, 2012 – Outline of preliminary recommendations finalized.

September 18, 2012 – Present preliminary recommendations at Complete College Ohio Task Force meeting at the University of Akron.

September 28, 2012 – Working group meeting at Lorain County Community College. Feedback from Task Force incorporated into recommendations. Potential to meet with identified experts.

October 12, 2012 – Working group conference call to discuss finalized draft of recommendations.

October 23, 2012 – Draft of report to Complete College Ohio Task Force meeting at Sinclair Community College.

November 1, 2012 – Working group meeting to incorporate final changes into draft.

November 13, 2012 – Complete College Ohio Convening. Report released.