

THOMAS J. VILSACK, GOVERNOR
SALLY J. PEDERSON, LT. GOVERNOR

IOWA COLLEGE STUDENT AID COMMISSION
KAREN MISJAK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

January 6, 2006

Ms. Margaret Thomson
Chief Clerk of the House
State Capitol
Des Moines, IA 50319

RECEIVED
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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Dear Ms. Thomson:

In 2005, the Iowa General Assembly directed the Commission to develop policy recommendations for the protection of educational consumers at institutions that provide Iowa Tuition Grants. The recommendations were to be provided to the General Assembly on January 10, 2006. To maintain compliance with the directive, I am sending you this letter describing the progress of the assignment, the timeline for action, and the anticipated completion date.

In an effort to provide data-based recommendations, the Commission delegated the preparatory work to an advisory committee, which in-turn sought the assistance of a technical advisory committee. A survey of college and university officials was conducted to provide data about seven items included in the directive. The seven items are as follows:

- Percentage of students enrolled at each institution who have high school graduation diplomas,
- Percentage of students enrolled at each institution who have high school equivalency diplomas,
- Percentage of low-income students,
- Percentage of non-traditional students enrolled at each institution,
- Graduation rate,
- Job-placement rate,
- Institutional cohort default rate.

Commission staff have been advised that the need for sound, data-based decisions outweighs the requirement of the January 10 deadline. Therefore, data from the survey are being prepared for advisory committee discussions on January 12, with anticipated Commission action on January 17, and delivery to the General Assembly as soon as possible after Commission action.

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If you have questions about this project, please feel free to contact me, or Dr. Keith Greiner, Research Director and Legislative Liaison who is managing the project, at 242-3344.

Sincerely,



Karen Misjak
Executive Director

KM:mjp

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Education Appropriations

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