

**MINUTES  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**333 Market Street | 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA**

**November 13, 2019**

The meeting of the Council of Higher Education was called to order by Council Chair Dr. Jonathan Peri at 1:03 p.m.

**Attending:**

James Agras ( <i>via phone</i> )	Sandra Dungee Glenn	Jonathan Peri
Carol Aichele	Anne Griffin	Ashley Svec
James Barker	Pamela Gunter-Smith	Jillian Sweigard
Nathan Barrett	Jeffrey Keeling	Karen Farmer White
Jamie Bracey-Green ( <i>via phone</i> )	Maureen Lally-Green ( <i>via phone</i> )	A. Lee Williams
Nicole Carnicella ( <i>via phone</i> )	Wayne Langerholc, Jr. ( <i>via phone</i> )	

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the September 11, 2019, meeting of the Council of Higher Education were approved on a **Dungee Glenn/Carnicella** motion.

**REPORT OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY  
POSTSECONDARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION**

Noe Ortega, Deputy Secretary for Postsecondary and Higher Education, reported on activity of the Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education (OPHE). Mr. Ortega highlighted items from his written report on the following topics: Chapter 49; Clinical Residences; Educator Workforce Diversity; Statewide College Credit Transfer System; Adult Basic and Family Literacy Education; It's On Us PA Grants; Act 16 of 2019; Counselor Symposia; PA College Application Campaign, food insecurity; and a collaboration with the Department of Corrections on higher education opportunities in state correctional facilities.

Dr. James Barker asked if the focus on educator workforce diversity is a K-16 approach to ensure a diverse array of students are prepared to enter the profession. Mr. Ortega said OPHE wants K-12 students to be able to successfully transition into educator preparation programs and spoke to various points in a student's educational career where they can be guided on pathways for postsecondary success.

Nathan Barrett commented that from his boots-on-the-ground perspective he has many excellent teachers who cannot pass required certification exams. He asked whether there are any plans in place to address this in light of educator shortages. Mr. Ortega replied that OPHE has been working to identify hurdles that may be in place that do not need to be there and also looking at other models for preparation.

Sandra Dungee Glenn applauded OPHE's focus on connecting marginalized residents with educational opportunities. Regarding adult basic education, she asked Mr. Ortega why there is a drop-off in the number of students signing up for such programs and not earning a GED. Mr. Ortega said he would work with staff in the Division of Adult Education to see if they have additional information on this question. He noted that some adult education programs may be designed with other ends in mind. Ms. Dungee Glenn then commented that she is aware of some successful industry-based literacy programs and asked whether other industries that are stepping up to bridge the educational divide for employees.

**PRESENTATION**  
**DR. THOMAS FOLEY, PRESIDENT,**  
**ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT COLLEGS AND**  
**UNIVERSITIES OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Dr. Thomas Foley, President of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (AICUP), presented information on the economic impact that independent colleges and universities have on the Commonwealth. Dr. Foley said, collectively, Pennsylvania's more than 90 independent colleges and universities have a \$24 billion annual economic impact, not including the medical systems and hospital systems associated with those institutions. He provided the Board with a more detailed report on how the institutions positively impact communities, including their role as job creators, the impact of student and visitor spending, and their volunteer service and charitable giving.

Jamie Bracey-Green stated that the *Chronicle of Higher Education* recently published an article of emerging best practices that support graduation success for economically disadvantaged, underprepared, and first-generation students. She asked Dr. Foley if AICUP's researchers identified any exemplary student success in Pennsylvania that is moving the needle on post-secondary success and, if so, whether such exemplars could be shared with OPHE for use in its training for school counselors. Dr. Foley said he would share examples with the Council Chair.

Dr. Peri announced that Cynthia Shapira, who was scheduled to deliver an update on behalf of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, was unable to join the Council this afternoon and would reschedule her presentation for another meeting.

**ACTION ITEMS**

There were no action items.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

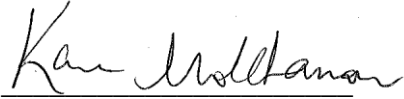
There was no public comment.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m. on a **Gunter-Smith/Dungee Glenn** motion.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Molchanow". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Karen Molchanow  
Executive Director