

RHODE ISLAND OFFICE OF THE POSTSECONDARY COMMISSIONER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING THREE: UNDERSTANDING THE NEEDS OF TODAY'S POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS

Friday, October 22nd, 2021 | Rhode Island Nursing Education Center | Providence, Rhode Island

INTRODUCTION | RHODE ISLAND OPC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Advisory Committee Co-Chairs will give brief opening remarks welcoming working group members back and providing a short recap of the last meeting.

9:00 AM – 9:10 AM

WELCOME REMARKS AND MEETING 1 RECAP

- **Robert A. Weygand**, Vice President of College Unbound; Former U.S. Congressman and RI Lieutenant Governor
- **Beverly Ledbetter**, Esq. Chair of the Board of Directors for the Rhode Island Urban League; Former Vice President and General Counsel, Brown University

9:10 AM - 9:20 AM

RE-INTRODUCTION OF WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

SESSION ONE | WHO ARE TODAY'S STUDENTS AND HOW CAN WE BETTER SUPPORT THEIR NEEDS?

Only 25 percent of students who enroll in postsecondary education across the United States are ages 18-24 and directly enroll after high school graduation. Instead, most postsecondary students are parents, employees, and students who have been previously enrolled but paused their education or transferred schools. These changing enrollment demographics highlight the evolving and wide-ranging supports that students need. Wraparound student services including tutoring, counseling, childcare services, transportation, and other non-instructional supports help students persist to postsecondary completion. Discussions in this session will center around how the population of postsecondary students has changed, what the various pathways to postsecondary degrees or credentials are, and how Rhode Island can better support all students.

9:20 AM - 9:30 AM

FRAMING PRESENTATION: DATA ABOUT POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS IN RHODE ISLAND

- **Dr. Tammy Vargas Warner**, Assistant Commissioner of Postsecondary Academic and Student Affairs, Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner

9:30 AM - 9:45 AM

BREAK

9:45 AM - 10:30 AM

STUDENT ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

- **Jimmieka Mills**, Communications Consultant, Lumina Foundation
- **Angie Escalante**, Community College of Rhode Island, Class of 2020; Johnson and Wales University, Class of 2023
- **Stephanie Leigh Nelson**, University of Rhode Island, Class of 2020
- **Funke Dina**, Rhode Island College, Class of 2024
- **Patrick Condon**, Community College of Rhode Island, Class of 2021



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10:30 AM – 11:00 AM

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

OPC Advisory Committee members will break into small groups to discuss the various challenges today's postsecondary students face. At the end of the breakout session, each group should be prepared to identify two to three policy priorities and actionable items.

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

REPORT OUT

One member of each group will report out their discussion, including the two to three policy priorities related to the challenges of today's students.

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM

FULL GROUP DISCUSSION

This conversation will review the common features of policy priorities and action items identified in the small groups and will give committee members an opportunity to provide additional feedback and context.

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

SESSION ONE WRAP UP AND LUNCH

SESSION TWO | CHARTING A PATH FORWARD FOR RHODE ISLAND POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

In the final session of the Committee, Commissioner Gilkey and his team at the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner (OPC) will reflect on the strategic priorities identified throughout the Committee's discussions and talk about how the office will work to support students and advance equity goals in the coming years. Committee members will engage in a discussion about how the various roles and perspectives represented in these discussions all have unique roles to play in driving the Committee's work forward.

1:00 PM – 1:30 PM

FRAMING PRESENTATION: STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN RHODE ISLAND

After lunch, Commissioner Gilkey will outline his vision for carrying the Committee's work forward in a way that advances key strategic priorities for the state. He will also give an overview of OPC's structure, the different policy levers the office can use to advance affect change, and the OPC staff members who lead various aspects of the office's work.

- **Dr. Shannon Gilkey**, Rhode Island Commissioner on Postsecondary Education

1:30 PM – 2:15 PM

FULL GROUP DISCUSSION

After OPC's presentation, Commissioner Gilkey will facilitate a large group discussion with the full committee to discuss possible action items and how everyone in the room can play a role in the implementation of next steps.

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2:15 PM – 2:30 PM

BREAK

2:30 PM – 2:45 PM

DISCUSSION OF NEXT STEPS

After the full group discussion, Commissioner Gilkey will offer his initial takeaways from the Committee's discussion and talk through how these conversations can inform OPC work over the next few years.

2:45 PM – 2:55 PM

CO-CHAIR CLOSING REMARKS

- **Robert A. Weygand**, Vice President of College Unbound; Former U.S. Congressman and RI Lieutenant Governor
- **Beverly Ledbetter**, Esq. Chair of the Board of Directors for the Rhode Island Urban League; Former Vice President and General Counsel, Brown University

2:55 PM – 3:00 PM

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CLOSING REMARKS

- **Dr. Shannon Gilkey**, Rhode Island Commissioner on Postsecondary Education

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

RECEPTION