

# COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Friday, October 14, 2011

## **DISCUSSION ITEM B:                    Announcements on Student Learning Outcomes Projects**

### **Staff Recommendation**

For information only.

### **Background**

Since its last meeting, the Commission has been invited to participate in two projects – one national and one regional – focusing on student learning outcomes. These projects are consistent with and build on the growing, statewide emphasis that the Commission has placed on student learning outcomes and recognize the leadership role that several of our public and independent institutions have demonstrated in this area. Over the past nine months, the Commission has convened four statewide gatherings that focused entirely or mostly on student learning outcomes: a special convening of faculty and academic leaders on this topic, February 25; the Weldon Conference for Higher Education, April 15; the Faculty Leadership Conference, April 29; and the Trustees Academy, September 26.

The first project, “Quality Collaborative,” is national in scope and results from an award to the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) by the Lumina Foundation for Education. This three year-project will pair a university and community college in eight states (California, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Oregon, Utah, Wisconsin, and Virginia) in an effort to test the value of the Degree Qualifications Profile as a “catalyst for improving and assessing the quality of student learning, facilitating effective student transfer, and increasing college completion rates.”

The second project results from a grant to the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) by the Lumina Foundation. This two-year project will involve an effort to “tune” simultaneously two disciplines – marketing and psychology – across state lines. Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri will each form five-member teams in each discipline to carry out this project. Each team will include an independent institution, a public major research university, and a community college.

Indiana is the only state named to participate in each project. The purpose of this agenda item is to provide additional details about the projects, explore how these projects fit into the Commission’s larger work plan, and provide a status report on those campuses that will participate in the project.

### **Supporting Document**

None.