The State’s Role in Higher Education Quality

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Boston, Massachusetts
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Session Goals

• To discuss the complex role of the state in the triad of higher education oversight.

• To share information about the intent and progress of the collaborative research project

• To examine the drafts of data elements for state mapping connected with the project and to provide expert feedback

• To engage attendees as expert voices to inform the research team about the reality of state oversight mechanisms
Project origins

• Lumina Foundation
• Aligned partner goals
• NCHEMS
• SHEEO
• NGA
NCHEMS

Some current activities

- Strategic planning with/on behalf of states, systems, state agencies.
- Alternative delivery models
- Postsecondary organization and structure, e.g., Pennsylvania, Connecticut
- Performance funding policy design and analysis
- Support for state data systems design and usage
  - Data for the American Dream (D4AD) – [www.d4ad.com](http://www.d4ad.com)

Quality measures underlying our work (recognizing geographic variation as appropriate)

- Participation
- Student progress and completion
- Affordability
- Reduction in equity gaps
- Workforce alignment and relevance, employment outcomes
- Measures of learning
Recent SHEEO Work Related to Quality

Recent SHEEO Work Related to Quality

• Quality Assurance and Improvement in Higher Education: The Role of the States
Recent SHEEO Work Related to Quality

Recent SHEEO Work Related to Quality

Connecting the Dots

Project overview
Project Activities

Data/ Research

- Development of data elements
- Data Collection
- State mapping
- Identification of models and policies from different states that address quality and consumer protection

Qualitative context

- Feedback from the field
- Regional roundtables
- Identification of key issues and data use cases
- Compilation of recommendations for process improvement
- Highlighting opportunities for focus and collaboration
Data Elements

State Higher Education Governance Structures
- SHEEO, institutions and/or systems
- Type (outline models/variations)
- Appointment power
- Legislation/administrative rules
- Specific quality language definitions (in rules)
- Reference to/required interactions with members of the Triad
- New programs/program review
- Institution authorization authority and procedures

State Community College Oversight
- Type
- Appointment power
- Legislation/administrative rules
- Specific quality language
- New programs/program review

Private College/University oversight (NFP and Proprietary)
- Agency
- Legislation/administrative rules
- Specific quality language
- Financial viability
Data Elements

Non-degree training provider approval/oversight
- Agency
- Legislation/administrative rules
- Specific quality language

Licensure structure
- Agency structure and oversight
- Occupations
- Legislation/administrative rules mapping

Workforce (Eligible Training Provider) Approval/Oversight
- Agency structure and oversight
- WIOA/CTE
- Federal requirements
- State-specific guidelines (ETPL)

Veterans Institutional/Program approval
- State Approval Agency (SAA)
- Federal requirements
- State-specific guidelines
Data Elements

State student aid programs
- Merit/need-based
- Institution eligibility
- Quality measures for continued eligibility

Data systems
- Dashboards/ State Accountability/Quality reporting mechanisms
- Longitudinal Data System metrics
- Workforce supply and demand
- Workforce outcomes
- Connection across QA data systems

Outcomes-based Funding
- Quality measures (priority metrics within the OBF model)
- Data collection/assessment

State Authorization/Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)
- Program quality
- Financial viability measures

Dual Credit oversight
- Quality Measures
- Agency Oversight
• Roundtables will bring together the players who intersect with higher education institutional oversight in state and can provide a clear picture of the reality of current quality assurance efforts, what is working and where there are further opportunities.

• Adding a qualitative state context to the data-focused research elements of this project and will call out issues of capacity, mission, focus, statutory requirements and process.
Voices at the Table

- SHEEO staff
- Regional ED staff
- Licensure board staff
- Institutional leaders
- Regional/national accreditors
- Programmatic accreditors
- Attorney General staff
- SARA staff
- State workforce staff
- Independent institution reps
- State approval agency staff
- Governors education staff
- Policy organizations
- Advocacy Organizations
- Regional Education Compacts
Who Are We Missing?
Data uses

Highlight the intersection of state oversight with the federal department of education and accreditors

Call out models and policies from different states that address quality and consumer protection

Allow states to see the gaps in oversight and opportunities to improve processes and better protect students.

What else?
Questions or suggestions?
Would you like to stay connected to the project?

Email awinters@nga.org to remain informed about key project issues