

Commission To Develop Strategies To Increase Postsecondary Access, Retention and Completion for Low-wage, Low-skilled Adults

September 18, 2007 @ 10:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m.
Cross State Office Building, Room # 220 (Labor Cmte. Room)

AGENDA

1. Convening of the Commission. (10:00 a.m.)

Sen. Mitchell and Rep. Hill, Commission Chairs, Commission Members & Staff

- Welcome and introduction of Commission members and staff; and
- Review of Commission purpose and duties (pursuant to Joint Order, Senate Paper 717).

2. Conceptualization of the Policy Problem. (10:30 a.m.)

Presentation / Discussion

- *John Dorrer, Director of Labor Market Information Services, Department of Labor:* Profile of the population of low-wage, low-skilled adults that need access to postsecondary degrees or occupational credentials; and
- *Barbara VanBurgel, Director, Office of Integrated Access and Support, Department of Health & Human Services:* Barriers to postsecondary access, retention and completion.

3. Information Gathering: Existing Programs, Resources and Initiatives. (11:15 a.m.)

Presentation & Discussion

- *Judy Pelletier, Program Coordinator, Trade & Rapid Response, Department of Labor:* “Career Centers”, “Trade & Rapid Response” and “Competitive Skills Scholarship Fund”
- *Larinda Meade, Project Coordinator, Maine College Transition Program:* “Maine College Transition Program”
- *Karen Hadley Keim, Associate Director, Maine Educational Opportunity Center:* “Maine Educational Opportunity Centers”

Lunch Break. (12:00 p.m.)

4. Prioritizing Key Policy Issues & Developing a Work Plan. (12:30 p.m.)

Commission Discussion

- **Conceptualization** -- Commission members will discuss their perspectives on the purpose, key policy issues and expected outcomes of the study; and will prioritize the issues to be addressed;
- **Information gathering** -- Commission members will identify the resource people and information needed to effectively examine the key policy issues;
- **Preparation** -- Commission members will discuss ways to learn the perspectives of the public, stakeholders, experts and interested parties;
- **Decision-making** -- Commission members will discuss the process to be used in arriving at findings, conclusions and recommendations; and
- **Logistics** -- Commission members will establish a meeting schedule and discuss how best to establish and maintain communication during the study.

5. Adjournment. (2:00 p.m.)