

## **AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

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Update on Issues Relating to Lincoln University and State Fair Community College  
Coordinating Board for Higher Education  
February 19, 2004

### **DESCRIPTION**

For the past several years State Fair Community College (SFCC) and Lincoln University (LU) have entered into collaborative agreements associated with delivery of technical education programs in Jefferson City. The intent of this board item is to provide an update on the status of the relationship between SFCC and LU.

### **Background**

In response to the Missouri State Plan for Postsecondary Technical Education, SFCC was authorized to offer the following one-year certificate and AAS degree programs in Jefferson City:

- Computer Information Systems Accounting, AAS
- Computer Information Systems Networking, AAS
- Computer Information Systems Programming, AAS
- Computer Information Systems Web Development, AAS
- Industrial Electronics/Electricity Technology, One-year certificate and AAS
- Industrial Maintenance Technology, One-year certificate and AAS

Increased tension between the two institutions occurred as a result of potential overlap, especially in general education course delivery. In February 2002, the Coordinating Board clarified its public policy framework for delivery of technical programs in Jefferson City and approved a framework for reducing tension between Lincoln University and State Fair Community College. Since the February 2002 action of the CBHE, both institutions have expended efforts to work collaboratively. The current agreement between LU and SFCC is effective through the summer session of 2004.

DHE staff met with the presidents of LU and SFCC on December 18, 2003 at the DHE offices, and staff facilitated conversations between the institutions via telephone conferences and correspondence during January 2004. Discussion centered on both institutions' determination that the current agreement is not only an inefficient use of human resources but is also fiscally unsound.

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### **Future Considerations**

Based on concerns about the fiscal viability of operating its Jefferson City site, Dr. Marsha Drennon, president of SFCC advised DHE staff that the college is giving serious consideration to phasing out its Jefferson City programs within the next 12 months. DHE staff contacted the Missouri Training and Employment Council (MTEC) at the Division of Workforce Development to discuss the effects such an event would have on the Jefferson City area. Mr. David Mitchem, Executive Director of MTEC has agreed to provide an analysis of the impact of a potential phase-out on local workforce needs.

Several questions have been raised by legislators and other interested parties about the SFCC/LU relationship and what will occur after the summer 2004 term. The attached statement was agreed to by both presidents LU and SFCC on January 21, 2004. Of particular emphasis is that no decision has yet been made concerning State Fair programs offered in Jefferson City, that currently enrolled students will be protected regardless of what decisions are forthcoming, and that final decisions will be informed by better understanding the needs of the mid Missouri workforce.

### **Conclusions**

SFCC and LU have worked collaboratively to offer Jefferson City area students access to quality technological education. The current agreement between these two institutions, however, has resulted in additional tension and concern about the viability of continuing to offer these programs. State Fair Community College is considering phasing out all of its Jefferson City programs if agreement cannot be reached that would allow the campus to operate with a balanced budget. Both institutions have been encouraged to think creatively about possible ways to meet the needs of Jefferson City area residents and employers.

### **STATUTORY REFERENCE**

Sections 173.005.2(1), 173.005.2(7), and 173.030, RSMo, CBHE new academic program approval

Section 173.020(2), RSMo, Identifying state higher education needs related to students and labor force

Section 173.020(3), RSMo, Developing missions and coordination of resource use

Section 173.030(2), RSMo, Recommending program, facility, and policy changes to institutional boards

Section 173.030(4), RSMo, Funding of off-campus instruction

Section 178.637.2, RSMo, Master plan for advanced technical and vocational training

Section 178.890 RSMo, Funding for external sites

Sections 178.892-178.896, RSMo, and 178.896, RSMo, Establishes Missouri's Community College Job Training Fund

Administrative Rule 6 CSR 10-6.020, adopted in September 1987, Standards for establishing residence centers

Administrative Rule 6 CSR 10-6.030, Funding of off-campus and out-of-district instructional sites

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

This is an information item only.

## **ATTACHMENT**

Agreement between Lincoln University and State Fair Community College

**January 21, 2004**

To the benefit of the citizens of Jefferson City and surrounding areas, State Fair Community College (SFCC) and Lincoln University (Lincoln) have collaboratively delivered six AAS degree programs and two one-year certificate programs in technical subject areas in Jefferson City in recent years. At this time, however, SFCC and Lincoln are exploring whether this collaboration can continue, particularly due to financial constraints, and in what form it will continue in the future. Current agreements will continue through the summer 2004 term. As of January 20, 2004 no decision about beyond summer 2004 has been made.

While the establishment of an Educational Center involving multiple educational providers in Jefferson City is attractive, at this time neither institution has the necessary resources needed to develop this concept.

At this time, the presidents of State Fair Community College and Lincoln University have agreed to the following:

- Decisions about beyond summer 2004 should be made as expeditiously as possible.
- The needs of area citizens and employers should be considered prior to any formal action taken about the future of SFCC programs delivered in Jefferson City.
- Faculty at each institution should be involved in understanding the current challenges and in helping to identify approaches for the future.
- Under any and all conditions, students currently enrolled in SFCC programs in Jefferson City should be protected.
- Each institution should consider current fiscal constraints and the future fiscal impact on the respective institutions as future options in Jefferson City are explored.
- Joint statements will continue to be issued by State Fair Community College and Lincoln University to ensure accurate and timely communication.

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***Agreed to by Marsha Drennon and David Henson on January 21, 2004.***