

BLM State Policy Position: Higher Education

November 16, 2011



POLICY:

Business Leaders for Michigan believes higher education is critical to meeting future workforce needs and represents a significant opportunity to grow the economy. Therefore, we support the following to strengthen Michigan's higher education system:

1. Setting a goal that, by 2022, the state will provide per student funding for public universities at a level comparable to the Top Ten states if universities meet or exceed the performance of top quintile peers on specific outcome-based metrics (see #3).
2. Developing an on-line dashboard of 20-25 metrics that measure performance and administrative and operational efficiencies compared to peers and best practices. The dashboard should be maintained and used by universities to identify where external consultants should be commissioned to improve administrative and operational efficiencies falling below best practices.
3. Developing and advocating for a set of 6-8 outcome-based performance metrics to qualify universities for increased funding. The metrics should measure quality; productivity and efficiency; affordability and access; and economic impact, and they should compare the performance of Michigan universities to the average performance and top quintile performance of national peers. Increased funding should be provided on a sliding scale to those universities progressing toward, meeting, or exceeding top quintile peer performance.
4. Growing universities' contribution to Michigan's economy, growing our pool of talent, and offsetting state funding constraints by increasing out-of-state revenues, including:
 - a) increasing out-of-state enrollment to at least the average of peers (without reducing access to in-state students); and
 - b) establishing an international tuition rate (modeling practices in other nations), recognizing that most international students are not disadvantaged financially.
5. Developing and implementing an expanded communications effort to increase public awareness and opinion leader support for higher education.