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### **Postsecondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council**

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Claiborne Building, 6th Floor  
Board of Regents Conference Room, Room 6-242  
1201 North Third Street  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Gerlinde Beckers called the meeting of the Postsecondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council to order at 10:00 a.m.

### **ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF MARCH 1, 2023 MINUTES**

Ms. Kim Langlois called the roll, and a quorum was established.

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Dr. Kim Hunter Reed	Commissioner of Higher Education
Melissa Bayham	LA Rehabilitation Services
Dr. Gerlinde Beckers	Office of the Governor
Kathy Dillon (Proxy)	Office of the Governor
Dr. Dan Bureau	LSU System
Ebony Haven (Proxy)	LA Developmental Disabilities Council
Gerald "Mitch" Dillon	LA Developmental Disabilities Council
Johnny Manela	LCTC System
Dr. Jeannine O'Rourke	UL System
Dr. Willie Smith	LA Developmental Disabilities Council
Dr. Eamon Halpin (Proxy)	House Committee on Education
<b>Members Absent</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Dr. Caroline Jurisich	Senate Committee on Education
Katherine Granier	Special School District
Dennis Shields	Southern University System

Dr. Beckers asked the Council to approve the minutes from the May 1, 2023 meeting. On motion of Commissioner Kim Hunter Reed, seconded by Dr. Willie Smith, the minutes were approved.

#### CONSIDERATION OF POSTSECONDARY INCLUSIVE EDUCATION FUND APPLICATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Denley reviewed the Postsecondary Inclusive Education Fund (PIEF) applications previously approved by the Council. He informed the Council that in the second round of applications two new applications were received and that the review committee recommended funding for both.

On motion of Dr. Jeannine O'Rourke, seconded by Dr. Dan Bureau, the review committee's recommendation to fund the applications was approved.

#### UPDATE OF POSTSECONDARY INCLUSIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM ACCREDITATIONS

Dr. Beckers provided an article to the Council regarding updating accreditation standards, noting that the article shows that there is motion towards an accreditation process for programs and strongly advised new programs to follow CTP accreditation standards. She also informed the Council that LSU-A just received CTP accreditation.

Mr. Johnny Manela added that Think College has a Facebook page, which he has found to be a great resource. Dr. Beckers added that it also helps to guide post-secondary programs.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Beckers asked Dr. Denley when programs could expect to receive awarded funding. Dr. Denley replied that since all applications have been approved, funds will be sent via interagency transfer, which will likely be completed within the next couple of weeks.

Dr. Reed expressed her appreciation to the Council and the Higher Education Community for their work, as well as to Senator Boudreaux for his strong advocacy. She added that there are now significant programs that want to be a part of this work and the Council should ensure that students benefit and that programs are developed to enhance Louisiana and the student experience. She added that at its beginning the Council set goals, including to have programs at both an HBCU institution and in the northern part of the state. She noted that both had been achieved, in addition to an expansion of programs across the state.

Dr. Beckers informed the Council that leaders are advocating for an additional \$3,000,000 from the Legislature for the Fund and that she had attended the House Appropriations meeting. Dr. Halpin added that he also attended.

Dr. Reed commented that Senator Boudreaux is on the Senate Finance Committee and that she would see him at the next Committee meeting. She asked Dr. Denley to send an update on the programs and funds spent to Senator Boudreaux.

Dr. Beckers also informed the Council that Dr. Jurisich is no longer the director of the UL Life Program and that the role is currently filled by an interim director. Dr. Reed responded that staff would review the law and send a letter to Senator Fields for a new nomination.

Dr. Reed asked the Council if it would be beneficial to have an informational virtual meetings for the programs receiving PIEF funds to make them aware of the finance and accreditation processes. Dr. Denley responded that a webinar could be scheduled.

Dr. Bureau suggested that, in addition to the webinar, a Community of Practice be organized. He also asked what materials can be provided to institutions to market and communicate the value of these programs. Dr. Beckers replied that LAPIE is available to provide technical assistance as well as a website where new programs can add information. Dr. Reed added that the Board of Regents Communications staff would issue a press release.

Dr. Reed added that it would be beneficial during the informational webinar to determine when programs are planning to launch, to help plan for communications and marketing.

Mrs. Dillon asked about ways parents can find information and suggested creating a one-stop location for available resources. Dr. Beckers responded that the LAPIE website has links to the available programs as well as additional resources. Mrs. Dillon asked how that information would be provided to parents who do not know where to begin looking. Dr. Halpin noted that some school boards host transition fairs at the high schools. Ms. Bambi Polotzola added that the information can be posted on the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs website, but also advised that Governor Edwards' term ends in January. Dr. Beckers indicated that a session on Postsecondary Inclusive Education from a student's perspective will be held during the Governor's Conference in July.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were provided.

#### NEXT STEPS & ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Kim Langlois advised the Council that a Doodle poll would be sent to the Council members to determine the next meeting date, which will be in mid-September.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.