October 18, 2010.

To: Five Star Consortium Presidents

From: Five Star Vice Presidents of Student Services

Subject: Initial projects to improve student access and mobility

The five vice presidents have been working with their staff and faculty identifying those projects that would have the most positive impact on student’s access and would be implemented in a short period of time. Each of these projects has been assigned to individual vice presidents to take the charge forward on implementation.

1. *Universal student ID and records system.* This particular project encompasses a number of processes student encounter as they go to individual campuses. Removing the firewalls between the individual college’s databases in the HP 3000 would allow student records and information to be accessed and shared amongst all members. As a scalable project this could then lead to the development of a common transcript, student placement scores and registration transactions would be transparent across the consortium which creates the ability to admit and register students for courses at any of the colleges from any of the campuses. The FTE and tuition would remain at the campus where the coursework resides. This would preclude the need to send transcripts for one college to another as the student moves throughout the system and provides them access to the consortium's full suite of academic offerings that best suit the needs and requirements of individual students.
2. *Crosswalk for assessment placement scores*. This would create uniform and consistent assessment and placement of students using either a common instrument or an equivalency table that would be accepted at all campuses. In addition, this project would work with faculty and instruction to establish common placement scores on all five campuses, therefore creating uniformity in placement in college and precollege level math, English and others courses. In addition, the charging of fees for testing, and/or admission will need to be brought into uniformity.
3. *Common and consistent interpretation and application of Washington residency regulation*. This project would reduce considerable staff hours spent researching and applying Washington's nonresident procedures and regulations. This would provide consistent and uniform access of students to the consortium and reduce the shopping around that currently takes place as students realize that the residency regulations are not uniformly applied and the impact that has on their tuition.
4. *Common and consistent interpretation and application of military veteran’s waivers, regulations and eligibility.* Given some recent changes in state waivers and federal veteran’s eligibility regulations this is currently posing a barrier for military veterans and their spouses to receive uniform use of the waivers and other military benefits designed to ease the veteran’s access to higher education.