

# Ideal State Data Systems: A View from the Experts

SHEEO/NCES Network Conference

April 8, 2010

# SHEEO's Charge

SHEEO shall undertake expert advisory meetings to develop and review state data system characteristics, and disseminate the resulting agreed-upon benchmarks or best practice characteristics and functionality.

# State Data Expert Panels

- Four two-day meetings
- Approximately 45 total participants, in addition to SHEEO staff

# Who Are the Experts

- State postsecondary data system/warehouse officials
- Data users/researchers
- Policy staff from state governments
- Representatives from both the public and independent (not for profit) postsecondary communities
- K-12 representatives
- Workforce data system representatives

# Discussion Points

- Goals, purposes, and uses of a state data system
- Process of building state data systems
- Challenges inherent in state data systems
- Characteristics of an “ideal” state data system
- Data elements that should be included in the postsecondary component of a state data system

# Goals

- Flexibility
- Transparency
- Ability to bridge sectors (K12, higher education, work force)
- Ability to show longitudinal trends
- Have meaningful data

# Purposes

- Enable policymakers to better understand their state's educational environment and use measurable outcomes to drive decision-making
- Expand the knowledge-base and create intelligence
- Not just gather data for data's sake

# Uses

- Reporting at federal (including IPEDS), state, and institutional levels
- Meeting legislative requests
- Providing data feedback to K12
- Modeling “what if” scenarios
- Making real-time decisions

# Policy Questions

- How many graduates are needed to address the states' intellectual capital needs?
- How many degrees are being generated by institutions in the state and how many of those graduating are staying in the state?
- Is access to postsecondary education available to all in the state regardless of location and economic circumstances?
- Are high school students prepared for college educationally, socially and financially?

# Data Driven Policy Decisions

- Aligning educational policy with state needs
- Allocating resources, accountability
- Understanding return on investments
- Aligning sectors and improving transitions
- Providing equity of education offerings within the state
- Addressing academic preparation of student populations (including need for remediation)

# Building a State Data System

- Keep objectives in mind
- Discuss limitations
- Coalition building
- Interoperability

# Challenges

- Coalition building
- Privacy and ownership
- Development

# Minimal Requirements

- Protect privacy
- Link to K-12
- Link to labor and workforce development (utilizing wage record matching)
- Contain metadata including standard definitions
- Be flexible enough to expand in the future

# An Evolving System

- Have the capacity to audit data
- Be formally aligned with state goals
- Demonstrate usability and sustainability

# Fully Realized

- Include independent and for-profit institutions
- Incorporate relevant policy information
- Demonstrate interoperability across multiple sectors

# Data Elements

- Demographics
- Institutional Information
- Academic Background
- Enrollment Status
- Financial Aid
- Academic Activity
- Academic Attainment

# Now What?

- Continual refinement
- Dissemination of results
  - Meeting participants
  - National and state meetings
  - Network News
- Incorporation into and updated *The Ideal State Postsecondary Data System: 15 Essential Characteristics and Required Functionality*



Thank you!

Questions and Feedback

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