

STATE OF DELAWARE



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT DOVER

EXECUTIVE ORDER
NUMBER NINETY-SEVEN

TO: HEADS OF ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

RE: DELAWARE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the quality and focus of education is recognized as a fundamental benchmark in determining a nation's and state's economic competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, changes in workplace requirements and society in general are occurring at increasing speed and education will be called upon to provide students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in this environment; and

WHEREAS, higher education is increasingly a requirement for a successful career; and

WHEREAS, efforts must continue in order to remove financial need as a barrier to a quality higher education program; and

WHEREAS, efforts to increase student achievement must not only include restructuring elementary and secondary education, but must also focus on ensuring student readiness to enter and succeed at the post-secondary level; and

WHEREAS, higher education has considerable expertise that can be shared with elementary and secondary education to improve the overall quality of education; and

WHEREAS, it is in the critical interest of the State of Delaware to ensure that these issues are being addressed in a coordinated manner; and

WHEREAS, this responsibility requires current and comprehensive information on higher education programs, student enrollments and overall activities; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order Number Forty-seven, dated June 13, 1974, as amended by Executive Order Number Seventy-five, dated June 25, 1975, of Governor Sherman W. Tribbitt, established a Delaware Postsecondary Education Commission, and as amended by Executive Order Number Thirty, dated September 22, 1977, of Governor Pierre S. duPont IV, and as amended by Executive Order Number Nineteen, dated November 22, 1985, of Governor Michael N. Castle; and

WHEREAS, the effectiveness of the Commission will be increased by the inclusion of individuals and offices heretofore unrepresented in the Commission's deliberations.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL N. CASTLE, by the virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Delaware, do hereby declare and order as follows:

1. The Delaware Postsecondary Education Commission, as established and constituted by Executive Order Number Thirty, dated september 22, 1977 of Governor Pierre S. duPont IV, and as amended by Executive Order Number Nineteen, dated November 22, 1985, of Governor Michael N. Castle is hereby renamed, reorganized and reconstituted as follows:
2. The Commission is hereby named the Delaware Higher Education Commission.
3. The Commission shall consist of 21 members. The following fourteen members shall serve concurrent with the status of their positions:
 - (a) The President of the University of Delaware;
 - (b) The Chairman of the University of Delaware Board of Trustees, or a designated representative from the Board;
 - (c) The President of Delaware State College;
 - (d) The Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Delaware State College, or a designated representative from the Board;
 - (e) The President of Delaware Technical and Community College;
 - (f) The Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Delaware Technical and Community College, or a designated representative from the Board;
 - (g) The President of one of Delaware's independent colleges, as selected by the Delaware Association of Independent Colleges;

(h) The President of the Board of Trustees of one of Delaware's independent colleges, as selected by the Delaware Association of Independent Colleges;

(i) State Superintendent of Public Instruction;

(j) President of the State Board of Education, or a designated representative from the Board;

(k) Secretary of the State Department of Labor;

(l) Director of the Delaware Development Office;

(m) Chairman of the Delaware Business Roundtable, or a designated representative from the Roundtable; and

(n) Representative of the Office of the Governor.

5. Seven members shall be appointed to serve at the pleasure of the Governor representing the general public, one of whom shall be selected by the Governor to serve as Chairperson of the Commission.

6. All other officers, besides the Chairperson, shall be selected by a vote of the Commission.

7. The objectives of the Commission shall be as follows:

(a) To ensure that higher education curricula and student achievement standards are aligned with Delaware's workforce development needs;

(b) To ensure that higher education and elementary and secondary education curricula and student achievement standards are aligned to facilitate student readiness to enter college;

(c) To strengthen the role of higher education in supporting elementary and secondary education restructuring and achievement of student performance expectations;

(d) To ensure that State resources for higher education are targeted on State priorities serving Delawareans.

8. In addition, the Commission shall administer and be responsible for:

(a) The State program authorities of the Federal Higher Education Act, including, but not limited to the:

1) State Student Incentive Grant Program

- 2) Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Loan Program
- 3) Guaranteed Student Loan Programs

(b) State programs for student assistance, including, but not limited to the:

- 1) Delaware Postsecondary Scholarship Fund
- 2) Diamond State Scholarships
- 3) Christa McAuliffe Teacher Scholarship Loan Program
- 4) Nursing Incentive Scholarship Loan Program
- 5) B. Bradford Barnes Scholarships
- 6) Educational Benefits for Children of Deceased Military and State Police
- 7) Optometric Institutional Aid Program
- 8) Workforce Education Grants
- 9) Engineering and Applied Science Recruitment Fund

9. The Commission is authorized and empowered to employ such staff as may be necessary to accomplish the above responsibilities within the limitations of its budget.

10. Executive Order Number Thirty, dated September 22, 1977, of Governor Pierre S. duPont IV, as amended by Executive Order Number Nineteen, dated November 22, 1985, of Governor Michael N. Castle is hereby rescinded and repealed.

APPROVED this 18th day
of September, 1991.



Michael N. Castle
Governor

Attest:

[Signature]
Secretary of State