

House Appropriations Committee Retreat

Update on Degree Funding Initiative



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2018 Session Actions

- The Appropriations Act reflects new funding of \$28.4 million GF allocated to 4-year institutions targeted at increasing degree production in four key areas
 - Science & Engineering
 - Health Science
 - Education / Teaching
 - Data Science
- Funding and degree production targets were allocated across 14 senior institutions for an expected overall increase of 880 degrees or about 4% growth
 - Targets were based on SCHEV reporting data for each institution

Targets and Funding By Institution

Inst	Annual Targets				Target Total	Total \$\$
	Sci/Eng	Health	Educ / Teach	Data Sci		
CNU	15	0	0	5	20	\$ 667,674
CWM	15	0	5	20	40	1,221,665
GMU	35	35	40	50	160	4,685,321
JMU	15	45	15	10	85	2,445,924
LU	5	5	5	0	15	546,995
NSU	5	5	5	5	20	826,575
ODU	40	40	30	15	125	3,611,785
RU	5	10	10	5	30	1,028,456
UMW	5	0	5	0	10	338,550
UVA	30	20	10	20	80	2,661,338
VCU	30	40	20	20	110	4,273,382
VMI	5	0	0	5	10	395,739
VSU	5	0	5	5	15	480,714
VT	100	0	0	60	160	5,215,882
Total	310	200	150	220	880	\$ 28,400,000

Target Methodology

- ❑ Key degree areas reflect industry demands for bachelors, masters and professional degrees
- ❑ Utilized SCHEV degree completion data by program using 2016-17 as the base year
- ❑ Targets reflect four-year look back of degree production in the key degree areas as well as recent trends in those areas by institutions
- ❑ Allocation of dollars to maximize degree production, results in some institutions not being assigned a target in a key area
- ❑ Funding was based on the average cost per degree for each institution and its unique fund split

Meeting the Degree Target

- ❑ Because student enrollments and degree distribution are somewhat baked-in, an institution's ability to meet these targets may be limited for the near term
- ❑ Institutions were asked to provide strategies that they plan to implement to change degree production trajectory toward meeting the state's goals
- ❑ The table on the next page summarizes the seven predominant strategies reported by each institution

Institution Strategies to Meet Degree Targets

Inst	Incr # of Instr Staff	New Acad Programs	Lab Renov & Equip	Increase Enroll	Alt & Redesign Pathways	Retention & Graduation	Apprentice & Internships
CNU	√	√				√	√
CWM	√	√			√		
GMU				√	√	√	
JMU	√				√		
LU	√					√	√
NSU		√	√		√	√	
ODU	√					√	
RU					√	√	
UMW	√				√	√	
UVA	√	√	√				
VCU				√	√	√	√
VMI		√				√	
VSU					√	√	
VT	√			√			

Increase the # of Instructional Staff

- Eight institutions highlighted this strategy
- Institutions would hire new full-time faculty mainly in STEM, healthcare and data science programs to meet increasing student demand
 - Reduces use of adjunct faculty
 - Increases ability to offer research opportunities for undergraduates
 - Increases number of core advisors

New Academic Programs

- Five institutions highlighted this strategy
- Propose to create new programs or new tracks within existing programs such as:
 - CWM – Engineering Physics & Applied Design is a new track within the Physics program
 - Electrical Engineering at CNU & NSU
 - Neuroscience at CNU
 - Computer Science at VMI

Lab Renovations & Equipment / Increase Enrollments

- Both NSU & UVA are looking to upgrade / improve labs & equipment in STEM fields
 - Helps to retain / recruit faculty as well as students who want to major in those fields
- GMU, VCU & VT are looking to grow enrollment
 - VCU is growing enrollment in healthcare related programs
 - VT growth is in engineering
 - GMU notes growth in STEM fields

Alternative & Redesigned Pathways

- Eight institutions highlighted this strategy
- Common strategy themes:
 - Expanding use of online & Online Va. Network
 - Shortening time to degree in teaching
 - Improving partnerships with community colleges
 - Course redesign especially in mathematics
 - Greater use of simulation such as in nursing
 - Partnering with high schools to target majors
 - Accelerated graduate degree programs

Improve Retention & Graduation

- ❑ Ten institutions highlight this strategy
- ❑ While the strategies here include traditional approaches such as enhanced tutoring in the degree areas, institutions also embraced other ideas:
 - Greater outreach to non-traditional students such as military and adult learners
 - Coordinating clinical experience periods in healthcare
 - Increasing undergraduate research opportunities
 - Targeted financial aid such as gap scholarships
 - Recruitment efforts at high schools to identify students interested in science & technology
 - Leveraging full-time faculty for more core advisors

Apprenticeships & Internships

- Three institutions highlighted this strategy
- CNU – expanding the summer scholars program to fall and spring
 - Undergraduates are paired with a faculty member on research projects
 - Problem-solving and presentation skills
- Longwood – Teacher / Residency Program
- VCU – incorporating real world experience opportunities in STEM & Data Science areas

Measuring Progress

- ❑ Language in the budget tasks SCHEV with reporting on the progress toward these goals to the Chairman of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees annually beginning August 2020
- ❑ Funding for the targets was driven by outcomes (degrees produced) with a 2016-17 baseline
- ❑ While it is understood that by 2020, institutions may not reach the degree target goals, the General Assembly will need to evaluate whether the strategies previously outlined are moving the institution in the right direction

Measuring Progress

- Assuming institutions are moving toward the degree target or are maintaining status quo relative to baseline, allocated funding could remain in place
- However, if institutions are falling short of 2016-17 baseline the General Assembly should consider redistribution of funding
- It may be better to place funds for future degree production targets in separate budget items as opposed to direct allocation to institutions
 - Funds would be tied to performance and individual MOUs

Questions
