State Legislatures and Higher Education Policy
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Growing Legislative Interest in Higher Ed

- Economy and the recent recession
- Decreasing state funding for higher ed
- Warnings that US higher ed is no longer best in the world
- Competitiveness and job outsourcing
- Changing demographics in states
- College completion rates everywhere are dismal
- New competition from University of Phoenix, on-line learning and other private entities
- Hearing from constituents about cost
- Higher ed as an investment to help economic development
2012 Activity: Productivity Focus

• Improving completion: Getting more students through the system
• Eliminating duplicate and inefficient programs
• Using facilities better
• Increasing faculty workloads
• Incorporating technology into instruction
• Easing and facilitating articulation and transfer
• Improving high school rigor and college readiness
• Performance funding
On the Horizon for 2013

- New funding strategies (performance/outcomes based)
- Privatization strategies
- Incentives for students to move through the system quicker
- Eliminating unproductive/duplicative programs
- Measuring quality
- Accountability for on-line and for-profit sectors
- Promoting collaboration among institutions
- Governance
- State student financial assistance
- Emerging federal role in higher education/shifting state role
- Community colleges and place-based strategies
- Fundamental conversations about the state obligation to provide higher ed and new strategies for long term funding