

**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES**  
**SBCC Planning Meeting: Summary of Board-Identified Priorities**

**Background**

At the 2019 State Board Planning Meeting, held September 18-19, three System Office vice presidents facilitated breakout group discussions with State Board members and then asked board members to provide individual rankings of policy issues that they would like the State Board to address in upcoming policy sessions. Thirteen board members turned in sheets that identified their suggested policy discussion priorities.

**Priority Issues**

About half of the board members provided ranked issues, and the other half identified (but did not rank) their suggested issues. Four policy issues stood out, identified as key issues by more than half of participating board members:

- Enrollment/retention
- Barriers to access
- Distance learning
- College readiness

There were a couple of other issues that also garnered relatively high rankings:

- Achievement gaps
- Labor market outcomes

Of the program-specific policy issue options, the two that ranked highest were “Credit for prior learning” and “NCCCS workforce certificates,” and discussion included ensuring we are able to *track* workforce certificate outcomes.

Different strategies to address priority issues and related issues were explored in the discussion of accomplishments members wanted to achieve through the board (or begin addressing) over the coming year.

**Recommended Follow-up**

The leaders of the SBCC and SBCC Strategic Planning Committee (with support from staff) will ***plan “Policy Sessions” for the State Board around the priority issues*** identified by the State Board.

Other possible follow-up actions include the following:

- ***Explore and implement strategies to increase enrollment and retention***, building on the work of the new Enrollment Task Force.
- ***Improve communications with/understanding of the K-12 and university systems.***
  - Invite liaison(s) to the State Board of Community Colleges (and possibly committees) from the State Board of Education/Department of Public Instruction and UNC Board of Governors/UNC System. Also seek similar connections to their boards.
  - Continue and expand the NC Career Coach program and promotion of career pathways

through community colleges, including the university transfer pathway.

- Pursue more robust collaboration with NC Public Schools on career exploration beginning in middle school and increased collaboration with K-12 school counselors and career development coordinators to de-stigmatize community colleges.
- Start discussions about development of a bridge between high school and community college disability services.
- ***Dig into what we mean by “labor market outcomes,”*** with a possible focus on income improvement and measuring the value-add to students even if they do not complete their program (recognizing that some employers tap students before they complete).
- ***Analyze achievement gaps and disparities in access*** wherever practicable in our consideration of community college effectiveness.
- ***Provide periodic updates on strategic plan tactics***, such as mapping services for students with disabilities, addressing prior learning sources and assessments, etc.