The Virginia Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2011 (HEOA)

Top Jobs Act or TJ21
Overview of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA)

- Governor’s Commission on Higher Education Reform, Innovation and Investment (2010)
- Commission recommendations provided framework for the Virginia Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2011: Economic opportunity; Reform-based investment; Affordable access
- Legislation adopted unanimously by the 2011 General Assembly
- Establishes long-term commitment, policy, and framework for sustained investment and innovation
- Provides guidelines for new funding model
  - Incentives for economic impact and innovation
  - Need-based financial aid
  - Per-student enrollment growth funding
  - Basic operations and instruction
- Creates Higher Education Advisory Committee
Top Jobs 21 Objectives

- Financial aid for low- and middle-income
- Increased enrollment of Virginia students
- Increased degree completion for Virginia residents who have partial credit completion for a degree
- Increased degree completion in a timely or expedited manner
- Improved retention and graduation rates
- Increased degree production in STEM and other high-need areas such as health care
- Increased research, including private-public collaboration
- Optimal year-round utilization of resources and other efficiency reforms
- Instructional resource sharing
- Technology-enhanced instruction
- Enhanced community college transfers and other enhanced degree path programs
Changes in Required Six-Year Plan for Each Institution

- **Six-Year Plan already required by Restructuring Act:** Academic, Financial, and Enrollment Plan

- **Academic**
  - Strategies the institution intends to implement in meeting a stated objective in the HEOA
  - Over three biennium: 2012-14; 2014-16; 2016-18
  - Mandatory objectives:
    - *Financial aid – low and middle income*
    - *Optimal use of facilities and instructional resources to improve student completions and cost efficiencies*
    - *Instructional resource sharing with other institutions*
    - *New programs or initiatives including quality improvements*

- **Finance**
  - Operating, Tuition and Fees, Tuition Waivers
Higher Education Advisory Committee (HEAC)

To provide advice and make recommendations on: funding methodology; low- and middle-income criteria; objective performance criteria for financial incentives; economic opportunity metrics; additional authority under Restructuring; role of non-publics; periodically assess the degree to which the Commonwealth’s system of higher education is meeting objectives.

Members:
• Appointed by the Governor
• Representatives from administration, legislature, SCHEV, public and private institutions of higher education, and business leaders
## Higher Education Advisory Committee Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member Name</th>
<th>Title and Affiliation</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Peter Blake</strong></td>
<td>Executive Director of State Council of Higher Education for Virginia</td>
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<td>President, Old Dominion University</td>
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<td>Senate Finance Committee, Staff Director</td>
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<td>Chancellor, Virginia Community College System</td>
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<td>Chairman, President and CEO, Dominion Resources, Inc</td>
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<td><strong>Heywood Fralin</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Robert Lindgren</strong></td>
<td>President, Randolph Macon College</td>
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<td><strong>Keith Miller</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Tommy Norment</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Charles Steger</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Teresa Sullivan</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Paul Trible</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Robert Vaughn</strong></td>
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<td><strong>John O. “Dubby” Wynne</strong></td>
<td>Vice Chairman, Council on Virginia’s Future</td>
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*Source: Office of Secretary of Education  
August 6, 2012*
Higher Education Advisory Committee - 2011 Work

- **Funding Model**
  - Review Cost of Education
  - Incentive Funding Based on Performance (e.g. STEM-H degrees)
  - Enrollment Growth Funding

- **Financial Aid Definitions**
  - Low-Income – Below 200% of Poverty Index
  - Middle-Income – 200% to 400% of Poverty Index

- **Additional Autonomy Under Restructuring**
  - Identification of Opportunities
Higher Education Advisory Committee - 2012 Workplan

- **Performance Measure Recommendations**
- **Access and Affordability**
  - Low- and middle-income students
  - Tuition-funded financial aid
- **Research/Economic Development**
  - Commonwealth Research and Technology Strategic Roadmap: Leveraging University Research for Job Creation in Targeted Industries
  - Virginia Economic Development Partnership’s MOU with Virginia’s Higher Education Institutions
- **Economic Opportunity**
  - Strategies to Link Job Demand to Program Growth and Provide Useful Information to Prospective Students
  - Post-Completion Wages of Graduates
- **Further Reform Based Investment**
  - Innovative Instructional Models and Pathways to Degree Attainment
    - Technology-enhanced Instruction
    - Year Round Use of Facilities
    - Improved Rate of Degree Completion
- **Recommendations for Independent Colleges**