


WICHE Commission Meeting

Bismarck, ND



STATE SCHOLARS INITIATIVE

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“The U.S. economy has traded in its hard hat for a briefcase. The country that made the assembly line famous now employs more office workers than factory workers.”

Source: Educational Testing Service, “Can We Achieve Equity with Generation Y?”, 2000, Princeton, NJ, p. 35.



What is SSI?



★ The goal of State Scholars Initiative is to **increase the number of high school students taking a rigorous course of study.**

★ To do this SSI **brings business leaders into classrooms**, where these leaders work with educators to motivate middle and high school students to take and complete a rigorous course of study.



★ The course of study is patterned after the recommendations of the **National Commission on Excellence in Education.**



Motivating students



- ★ Training business people to make presentations to 8th graders right before they select their high school courses.

- ★ Business volunteers help students understand the career options and monetary benefits of taking rigorous courses (defined in the Scholars core).



- ★ State Scholars programs provide academic support, incentives, and special recognition to SSI students. This ongoing support helps ensure student success in the more difficult courses.

What is SSI?

**Upper
25%**

Minor focus
majority already motivated

**Middle
50%**

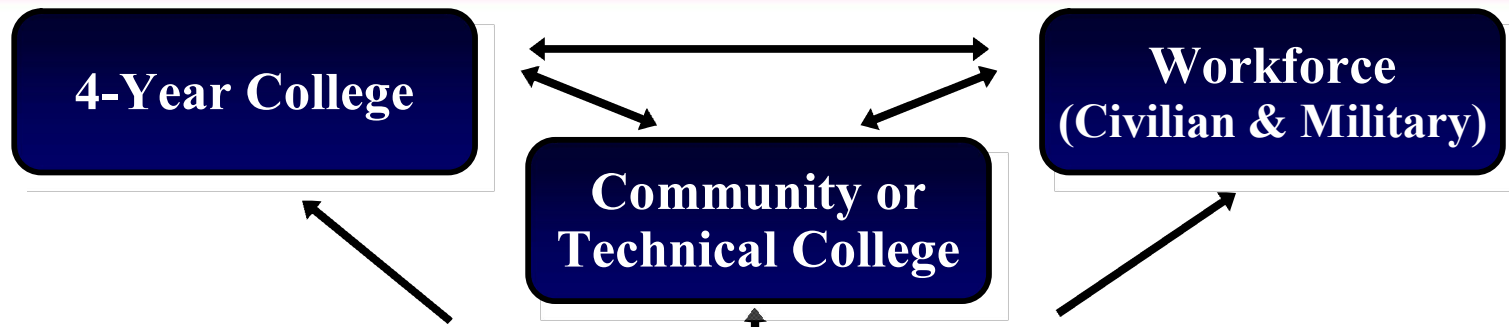
SSI's Heaviest Focus
greatest opportunity

**Lower
25%**

special challenges



What is SSI?



State Scholars Course of Study			
9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
English I	English II	English III	English IV
Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	
World History	U.S. History	U.S. Govt.	Economics
2 years of the same Foreign Language			



What is SSI?

- ★ The **State Scholars Initiative** is designed to help all students succeed – not just those who want a bachelor's degree.
- ★ Those who plan to enter career pathway programs at two-year colleges and technical institutes are finding they have to complete rigorous requirements for entry into programs in in-demand fields like nursing, computer science, and engineering technologies.



What people are saying...

""The world today is more competitive than it's ever been, and our young people need to be prepared for that. They need to be challenged, and I'm convinced the vast majority of them are eager to meet that challenge. Programs like Arizona Scholars can be incredibly helpful in providing incentives and support for these students."

Dave Howell, Government and Community Relations, Wells Fargo Bank, Phoenix, AZ



SSI States...

- ★ There are **22 states** in the State Scholars Initiative
- ★ Of these, **21 states** are active participants in the SSI Network
- ★ Washington closed its State Scholars Program in January, 2006



Original SSI States

Arizona

Arkansas

Connecticut

Indiana

Kentucky

Maryland

Michigan

Mississippi

New Jersey

New Mexico

Oklahoma

Rhode Island

Tennessee

Washington



New SSI States

Colorado
Louisiana
Massachusetts
Nebraska
North Carolina
Utah
Virginia
West Virginia



State Sustainability

- ★ In addition to receiving the SSI federal grant monies, business/education partnerships are asked to support the state's program through financial and in-kind contributions.
- ★ Programs need to fund:
 - training for business representatives to make effective student presentations
 - summer student academies
 - staff development for school staff
 - marketing campaigns
 - student scholarships
 - incentives and recognition events
 - long-term commitment to a statewide coordinator




SSI Advisory Board meetings

- ★ January 12, 2006 in Washington, DC
- ★ March 31, 2006 via teleconference
- ★ June 29, 2006 via teleconference



National High School Reform Efforts

The graph below illustrates state participation in the State Scholars Initiative, American Diploma Project Network, Achieve Align Cohort I and II, National Governors Association HS Phase I and II, Gates Focus States, and Jobs for Future Early College (respectively).

		ADP Network	Achieve Align Cohort I	Achieve Align Cohort II	NGA HS I	NGA HS II	Gates Focus State	JFF Early College
Alabama		X				X		
Arizona	X					X		
Arkansas	X	X	X		X			
California							X	X
Colorado	X	X	X					
Connecticut	X					X		
Delaware		X			X			
Florida						X		
Georgia		X	X			X		X
Idaho		X		X				
Indiana	X	X			X			
Iowa						X		
Kentucky	X	X				X		
Louisiana	X	X	X		X			
Maine					X	X		
Maryland	X	X		X				
Massachusetts	X	X	X		X			
Michigan	X	X		X	X			
Minnesota		X			X			
Mississippi	X	X				X		
Nevada						X		
Nebraska	X							
New Hampshire						X		
New Jersey	X	X		X				X
New Mexico	X						X	X
New York							X	X
North Carolina	X	X		X	*	X	X	X
Ohio		X			*			X
Oklahoma	X	X		X		X		
Oregon		X			*		X	X
Pennsylvania		X	X			X		
Rhode Island	X	X			X			
Tennessee	X					X		
Texas		X			*	X	X	X
Utah	X							X
Virginia	X				X			
Washington	X					X	X	
West Virginia	X							
Wisconsin						X		
Wyoming						X		

* Received Gates funding subsequent to awarding of NGA I for specific P-16 activities

Based on a chart by Kristin Conklin, NGA

Academic Competitiveness Grants

- ★ New federal student aid program for some students who qualify for Pell grants
- ★ In their first year, **\$750**
- ★ In their second year, **\$1300**
- ★ GPA of **3.0**
- ★ Rigorous course of study



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WICHE States in the SSI Network

Arizona	Arizona Business & Education Coalition (ABEC)
Colorado	Fund for Colorado's Future
New Mexico	New Mexico Business Roundtable for Educational Excellence
Utah	Utah K-16 Alliance, Board of Regents
Washington	Partnership for Learning



RFP Process

- ★ RFP dissemination started February 6, 2006
- ★ Bidder's Conference call on February 23, 2006
- ★ Technical assistance provided until March 14, 2006 proposal deadline
- ★ Expert review panel met on March 27, 2006
- ★ State Selection between March 27-29, 2006
- ★ Announcement on March 31, 2006 to Advisory Board, states, media



Characteristics of Winning Proposals

- ★ Strong business/education partnership
- ★ Commitment to the SSI Core Course of Study
- ★ Integrate SSI with other state initiatives
- ★ Ability to manage federal grant dollars
 - ★ Including data collection on student course-taking patterns, student completion rates, and statewide policy change



Academic Competitiveness Grants

- ★ \$790 million available beginning July 1
 - ★ Includes both ACG and SMART
- ★ Pell-eligible students who are beginning their first year of college
- ★ State Education Agencies need to submit a state plan by June 1 for 2006/07 awards and November 1 for 2007/08 awards



SSI Performance

- ★ Diana Robinson, Evaluator for WICHE
- ★ Karen Paulson, Evaluator for SSI States
 - ★ Evaluation of student course-taking patterns, student completion, and statewide policy implementation
- ★ Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE), site monitoring visit June 13



Future of SSI at WICHE

- ★ Reviewed for FY 07 funding, August 2006
- ★ Possibility of a third year
 - ★ \$1.2 million for up to four more states or additional support for current 22 states
- ★ US Department of Education is deciding now on future RFP
- ★ Beyond Year 3, the sustainability of the program is unclear



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