

March 27, 2020

March 27, 2020, Princeton, New Jersey – On March 25, 2020, New Jersey Secretary of Higher Education, Zakiya Smith Ellis, released the [Higher Education State Plan Working Group](#) deliverables. The culmination of more than a year of work, these reports are a set of recommendations developed by five (5) working groups appointed by the Secretary to reinforce the strategic vision for higher education embodied in the State’s higher education master plan, [Where Opportunity Meets Innovation: A Student-Centered Vision for New Jersey Higher Education](#). Many of the recommendations in the reports target strategies to increase support for students at New Jersey’s colleges and universities and to help achieve a statewide goal of 65% of New Jersey Citizens obtaining a post-secondary degree or credential by the year 2025.

New Jersey Educational Facilities Authority (NJEF) Executive Director Eric Brophy was appointed by the Secretary to serve as a member of the [Making College Affordable Working Group](#), which examined potential new state funding models and explored approaches to improved and expanded collaboration among institutions to meaningfully reduce higher education prices for students and families. The Group also focused on:

1. Identifying best practices and creating a guide for dealing with non-tuition costs faced by students.
2. Creating a reasonable and measurable affordability benchmark for all students and working to ensure institutional pricing schemes align with this benchmark.
3. Proposing a completion-oriented funding model that prioritizes service to traditionally under-served populations.

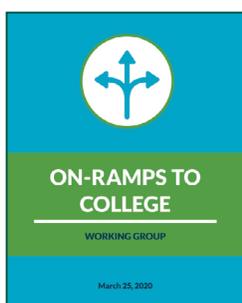
“It’s been an honor to support the Secretary and her team in their critically important work to develop and implement the State’s master plan for higher education,” said Executive Director Brophy. “I look forward to continuing to support the Secretary alongside so many other stakeholders in the next phase of implementation.”

See links below for more information on the reports of each of the 5 Working groups.

Main Working Group Documents



Making College Affordable Working Group



On-Ramps to College Working Group



Student Success Working Group



Safe and Inclusive Learning Environment Working Group



Research, Innovation, and Talent Working Group

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