

PRESS RELEASE
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BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ISSUES REPORT ON THE STATE OF
DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION AND LEARNING ASSISTANCE IN
POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION.

Current and former leaders of the field of developmental education and learning assistance have issued a strategic review of the field and provided recommendations for its improvement. The review indicated that learning support services such as developmental courses, learning centers, and tutoring contribute to student retention and graduation at all types of postsecondary institutions. In spite of this, legislators, higher education decision makers, and faculty members sometimes view these programs with ambivalence. This report also describes the strengths, challenges, and opportunities in developmental education and learning assistance and recommends a variety of actions that professional associations in the field might take during what the Blue Ribbon Commission considers to be a crucial time for the field.

The report is available from the Blue Ribbon Commission website, <http://blueribboncommission.org/>. The web site also provides a link to a web-based discussion forum for public comment and conversation of the report and the issues it raises.

Current and past national leaders representing the major professional organizations involved with developmental education and learning assistance created the report. These leaders were appointed to a task force called the Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) by the American Council of Developmental Education Associations (ACDEA). The ACDEA is an organization through which professional associations in the field collaborate. The ACDEA created the BRC to recommend ways that member organizations can work together to improve the profession and service to students. This report is meant to serve as a catalyst for conversation, reflection, and planning among professionals in the field.

For additional information, contact David Arendale, Chair of the BRC [612-625-2928], Dr. Hunter Boylan, Chair of the ACDEA [828- 262-6100], or any of the other BRC members. Contact information for these individuals is available through the BRC website, <http://blueribboncommission.org/>