

will culminate in the development of a State Plan for Higher Education that is supported by all major stakeholders, the Governor is requested to convene a State Conference on Higher Education in 1999. Participants in the Conference shall include public and private leaders; representatives of all institutions, including faculties, staff, and boards of visitors; members of the Maryland Higher Education Commission and governing boards; and other interested stakeholders. Following the Conference, the Maryland Higher Education Commission shall continue to coordinate the development of the State Plan which shall be complete by April 30, 2000. The State Plan shall be updated every 2 years and culminate in a State Conference for Higher Education, hosted by the Governor, to focus the public agenda on higher education.

~~SECTION 9. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That as a starting point for the development of the State Plan for Higher Education in accordance with Section 8 of this Act, the Maryland Higher Education Commission and the other participants in the strategic planning process shall consider the following goals for the University System of Maryland, and for higher education in general, as recommended in the Final Report of the Task Force to Study the Governance, Coordination, and Funding of the University System of Maryland:~~

~~1. Enhance the University of Maryland, College Park as the State's flagship campus with programs and faculty nationally and internationally recognized for excellence in research and the advancement of knowledge; admit freshmen to the campus who have academic profiles that suggest exceptional ability; provide access to the upper division undergraduate level of the campus for students who have excelled in completing lower division study; and provide the campus with the level of operating funding and facilities necessary to place it among the upper echelon of its peer institutions;~~

~~2. Maintain and enhance an academic health center and a coordinated higher education center for research and graduate and professional study in the Baltimore area (University of Maryland, Baltimore and University of Maryland Baltimore County) with a focus on science and technology;~~

~~3. Enhance and support high quality undergraduate, teacher preparation, and masters programs at the regional comprehensive institutions, recognizing and supporting the very unique mission of each of these institutions;~~

~~4. Support Towson University as the largest comprehensive institution;~~

~~5. Enhance the historically black institutions and recognize the unique role of University of Maryland Eastern Shore as the State's 1800 land grant institution;~~

~~6. Encourage collaboration among institutions for the benefit of students;~~

~~7. Encourage and enhance higher education centers, such as the Shady Grove Center in Montgomery County, through the use of technology, as points of collaboration and access for underserved areas of the State;~~