



State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

COMMUNICATIONS & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

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SCHEV Names Peter Blake as Director

RICHMOND — Members of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) have selected Peter A. Blake as the agency's new Director. He has acted as SCHEV's Interim Director since April 2011 after serving as Vice Chancellor of Workforce Development Services for the Virginia Community College System.

"We have been very impressed with Mr. Blake's interim leadership of the agency," said Council Chair Susan Magill. "His work with the Secretary of Education, the presidents of the institutions, and other stakeholders to implement the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2011 shows his ability to create successful partnerships that will benefit higher education in Virginia. We are fortunate to have as SCHEV's new director someone of Mr. Blake's impressive knowledge of both the Virginia legislature and the Commonwealth's diverse system of higher education."

"I am pleased the Council has asked me to assume leadership of SCHEV on a permanent basis," said Mr. Blake. "I look forward to continuing my work with the Council members and SCHEV staff on the many important issues facing Virginia higher education."

Mr. Blake previously worked at SCHEV as an Associate Director overseeing higher education analyses in the areas of faculty and staff compensation, higher education funding policies, academic libraries, distance learning and instructional technology, and student financial aid. He left SCHEV in 1999 to serve as the Legislative Fiscal Analyst for the Virginia General Assembly's House Appropriations Committee. Prior to serving as the Secretary of Education under former Virginia Governor Mark Warner, Mr. Blake was the Deputy Secretary of Education from 2002 to 2005.

In addition to his professional experience, Mr. Blake has served on various advisory committees, and has completed the Virginia Executive Institute and LEAD Virginia programs, as well as the Associates program through the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. He has a B.A. in History and an M.S. in Mass Communications Management from Virginia Commonwealth University.

SCHEV is the Commonwealth's coordinating body for Virginia's system of higher education. The agency provides policy guidance and budget recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly, and is a resource for Virginia colleges and universities on higher education issues.

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