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HOUSE BILL 1439

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Sawyer, Zeiger, Reykdal, Gregerson, Manweller, and Tarleton

Read first time 01/21/15. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to an online alternative credit model at Central  
2 Washington University; adding a new section to chapter 28B.35 RCW;  
3 and creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.35  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) An online alternative credit model that awards degrees is  
8 established. This model is intended to position the state to meet  
9 baccalaureate degree production goals and to serve nontraditional  
10 students who may already hold some postsecondary academic credits or  
11 life experience that can count towards a degree.

12 (2) Students targeted for enrollment in this model include:

13 (a) Students who are early learning providers, to help expand  
14 professional degree holders in the field;

15 (b) Veterans returning to civilian life with education,  
16 knowledge, and skills acquired during military service;

17 (c) Students transferring from another college or university;

18 (d) High school students who are college bound;

19 (e) Students who come to a university or college with academic  
20 credits earned through dual credit programs such as running start,

1 international baccalaureate, AP, college in the high school, and  
2 other programs;

3 (f) Individuals who have completed education and training  
4 programs provided by an employer;

5 (g) Individuals who have acquired knowledge and work experience  
6 on the job or through an internship; and

7 (h) Individuals who have acquired some postsecondary academic  
8 credit, but whose commitments to work or family prohibit degree  
9 completion in a traditional baccalaureate setting.

10 (3) Central Washington University shall host the online  
11 alternative credit model. In order to develop the model the  
12 university shall:

13 (a) Communicate with community and business leaders to identify  
14 and deliver needed programs;

15 (b) Develop and launch curricula and programs in response to the  
16 needs of business and students;

17 (c) Evaluate and offer credit for student learning already  
18 acquired outside of academic settings;

19 (d) Develop a delivery model that provides flexibility for  
20 working students in place of a traditional instructional model and  
21 pace;

22 (e) Coordinate with other K-20 education providers; and

23 (f) Identify strategies to enhance baccalaureate aspirations in  
24 underserved communities.

25 (4) Central Washington University shall consult with the  
26 department of early learning for the purposes of targeting students  
27 who are early learning providers in subsection (2)(a) of this section  
28 and developing programs in subsection (3) of this section.

29 (5) Central Washington University shall develop and launch a  
30 bachelor of arts in early childhood education using the online  
31 alternative credit model.

32 (6) Central Washington University shall report annually by  
33 December 1st to the higher education committees of the legislature on  
34 the progress in implementing the model and recommendations for  
35 improvement or expansion.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** If specific funding for the purposes of  
37 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not

1 provided by June 30, 2015, in the omnibus appropriations act, this  
2 act is null and void.

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