

Excerpt on Innovation Awards from January Governor's 2016-17 Budget Proposal, Page 47

Innovation Awards

In 2014-15, the state recognized many higher education institutions that have been experimenting with ways to improve student success through the Awards for Innovation in Higher Education. That program provided \$50 million in awards to the colleges and universities that initiated the most ambitious efforts to expand access, improve quality, and integrate efforts across entities in a meaningful way. The awards addressed K-12 alignment to higher education standards and expectations, redesign of curriculum and pedagogy to improve outcomes, and better use of technology to expand access to courses.

The Budget proposes to again fund the innovation awards with \$25 million Proposition 98 General Fund. This proposal builds off the work of the prior innovation awards and focuses on the role that community colleges play as part of the state's open access higher education system — connecting with K-12 schools and leading to enrollment at the public universities and participation in the workforce. The Committee on Awards for Innovation in Higher Education will ask applicants to devise plans to make certain "innovation models" possible, leaving the "how" up to the teams that form to address the challenges and encouraging low-cost strategies. The committee will focus on innovations in technology and data, effective transfer pathways, and successful transitions from higher education into the workforce.