**Research and Planning Commission**

**Accountability and Quality Measures**

**Name of Accountability/Quality Program:**

Voluntary Framework for Accountability

**Authors/Sponsors/Funders, etc.:**

American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) with funding from the Lumina Foundation for Education and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

**URL:**

<http://www.aacc.nche.edu/Resources/aaccprograms/VFAWeb/default.aspx>

**Overview:**

According to the website**,** the Voluntary Framework of Accountability (VFA) is the first comprehensive national accountability system created by community colleges, for community colleges.

Facilitated by AACC, community college leaders conceived, developed and pilot-tested the first set of VFA metrics, which gauge how well institutions perform in serving a variety of students and purposes.

The VFA has three parts:

1. measures of student progress and outcomes;

2. measures of workforce, economic, and community development; and

3. an approach for assessing student learning outcomes.

**Specific Measures in Program:**

The metrics are presented in the attached 6-page brochure.

**Impact/Implications for Washington Community & Technical Colleges:**

The VFA was pilot tested in 2011 and in 2012 the AACC is encouraging participation from as many community colleges as possible so that they can beta test the VFA data collection, display, benchmarking, and analytics tool. Several Washington community colleges have been involved with the development and use of the VFA. However, there has been no discussion at the state level about using this as a measurement tool.