

DATE: January 29, 2015

SUBJECT: Drive to 55 Support and Capacity Building

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Information

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Student Success Course

As part of the Governor’s Drive to 55 Initiative, the Tennessee Board of Regents, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, and the Tennessee College Access and Success Network collaborated to produce an online course designed to equip high school students with the skills and information needed to enroll and succeed in higher education. Course content includes information on choosing a college, applying for admission and financial aid, taking steps to enroll in classes and successfully navigate the college campus, and strategies for college success. The course is being piloted out of the Office of P-16 Initiatives with 14 Tennessee high schools during the spring of 2015 and is scheduled to be available for statewide implementation in the fall of 2015.

Ready to Reconnect: Small Grants to Institutions to Better Serve Adult Learners

In the coming weeks, THEC will initiate a competitive grant program that will be available to TCATs, public two- and four-year institutions, and TICUA institutions to improve practices, policies and internal operations that support adult learner success. The grants, called Ready to Reconnect grants, are being funded from THEC’s federal College Access Challenge Grant. To be eligible for this grant, applicants must first complete the Adult Learning Focused Institution (ALFI) assessment through the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL). Ready to Reconnect grants will be awarded for the purpose of providing services and support to adult learners to increase their success on the basis of the challenges revealed through the ALFI assessment results.

Grants to Institutions to Better Serve Tennessee Promise Students

In the coming weeks, THEC will release a call for proposals for small competitive grants focused on increasing the matriculation and retention of Tennessee Promise students at public two-year institutions. Funded using College Access Challenge Grant funds, grants aim to build institutions’ capacity to serve Tennessee Promise students with particular emphasis placed on associate degree completion and, if applicable, transfer to a four-year institution. THEC will award grants to institutions that identify scalable, promising practices which support degree completion among Tennessee Promise students.