

DATE: November 16, 2006

SUBJECT: Post-*Geier* Status Report

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Information

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: On September 21, U.S. Federal District Court Judge Thomas Wiseman dismissed *Geier v Bredesen*, the state higher education desegregation lawsuit. Staff will report at the November 16 Commission meeting concerning efforts subsequent to the dismissal to ensure continuation of access and diversity policy initiatives.

Most recently, THEC staff convened planning meeting on November 1. Administrative and fiscal representatives from the Tennessee Board of Regents and the University of Tennessee joined staff from the State Attorney General's office, the Department of Finance and Administration, and THEC in discussion of:

- Ground rules and parameters for post-*Geier* diversity and access programs;
- Possible revision of the statewide pre-professional programs;
- The UT Promise financial aid program; and
- 2007-08 post-*Geier* funding.

It was decided at the meeting to create a sub-committee to further discuss and define the role of diversity and under-represented groups as they pertain to the Tennessee higher education. Staff will elaborate on the above activities on November 16.