

DATE: April 24 , 2014**SUBJECT:** Core to College Year 1 Report**ACTION RECOMMENDED:** Information

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Core to College is a multi-state grant initiative designed to promote strong collaboration between higher education and the K-12 sectors in the implementation of the Common Core State Standards and aligned assessments. Funded by Rockefeller Philanthropy Associates, a consortium of the Gates, Lumina, and Hewlett foundations, THEC was selected for participation in the Core to College project in 2012.

Through this project, the Core to College Director has focused on successfully executing two initiatives: Curriculum Alignment and P-16 Curriculum Councils. Both of these projects were developed with specific, measurable outcomes and timelines that allow for a clear assessment regarding program progress and delivery.

Curriculum Alignment

With the support of the Tennessee Board of Regents and University of Tennessee, THEC formed faculty redesign teams to assess and align the K-12 Common Core State Standards to credit bearing, entry level courses in English and Math to create a more seamless transition from high school to college for Tennessee students.

Both faculty teams have planned and developed professional development sessions around their Core-Aligned curricular materials to be held this summer. The Core-Aligned College Algebra team will be hosting three regional one-day workshops, while the Core-Aligned Composition and Rhetoric team is officially piloting their course with targeted faculty from four institutions.

Regional P-16 Curriculum Councils

Eight regional Curriculum Councils were formed in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Education Centers of Regional Excellence (CORE) Offices to promote better communication and relationships between K-12 and higher education regarding Common Core implementation. To date, each council has met, identified a common area of need, and developed an action plan towards a measurable outcome for the coming year.

Tangible highlights from Year 1 include: development of a co-teaching model pilot for mentor teachers and teacher candidates; focused work in literacy and math instruction/intervention alignment, such as P-16 literacy and math instruction crosswalks, intervention reports, and a position paper on secondary literacy instruction; and a video-based facilitation guide for higher education math departments around the Common Core Mathematical Practices.