



TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

Finance and Operations Committee

REGULAR CALENDAR ITEM: III.

MEETING DATE: May 14, 2025
SUBJECT: 2025 Quality Assurance Funding Review
ITEM TYPE: Information

BACKGROUND

Over 40 years ago, Tennessee was the first state to utilize quality metrics in state higher education funding. Over the years, Quality Assurance Funding (QAF) has evolved and incentivizes public colleges and universities to measure student learning and institutional effectiveness as part of the continuous improvement process. In the current 2020-2025 QAF standards, institutions may earn an additional 5.45% over operating budgets based on performance on metrics particular to their sector and aligned to the Tennessee Higher Education Master Plan.

QAF standards are evaluated every five years to ensure alignment with state higher education priorities. In order to develop new standards, THEC staff collaborate with institutional and system-level stakeholders via a steering committee. The steering committee provides recommendations on possible metrics and scoring mechanisms which inform the next five years of standards.

The QAF review of the 2025-2030 standards is already underway. Beginning in fall 2024, THEC staff have been working with campus-level QAF coordinators and other stakeholders along with the 2025-2030 steering committee, whose members are listed in the below table. THEC staff will present information on previous iterations of QAF, provide a synopsis of input received from the steering committee and other stakeholders, and record any input and feedback the committee has.

2025-2030 QUALITY ASSURANCE FUNDING STEERING COMMITTEE

Name	Title	Institution
Charlise Anderson	Managing Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness, Research, Planning, and Assessment	Tennessee State University
Colton Cockrum	Senior Associate Vice Provost of Institutional Effectiveness, Accreditation, and Academic Assessment	University of Memphis
Mary Hoffschwelle	Vice Provost for Planning and Effectiveness and SACSCOC Accreditation Liaison	Middle Tennessee State University
Linda Martin	Interim Chancellor	University of Tennessee, Southern
Matt Matthews	Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs	University of Tennessee System
Michael McFall	Director of Academic Assessment	University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Phil Oldham	President	Tennessee Technological University
Carol Rothstein	President	Jackson State Community College
John Squires	Vice President of Economic and Community Development	Cleveland State Community College
Chris Tingle	Assistant Vice Chancellor of Data Strategy	Tennessee Board of Regents