

TBR Strategic Plan Steering Committee

Potential Themes

Based on the Strategic Plan Steering Committee's first two meetings, the following broad ideas emerged as potential themes in the revised 2015-25 Strategic Plan. Some of these ideas might also be good fodder for a mission statement

- **Open Access** – TBR is an open access community and technical college system that serves students regardless of background, profile, income, readiness, or circumstance and is committed to meeting student, workforce, and community needs for education and training.
- **Completion/Equity** – Consistent with the Drive to 55, TBR values completion, whether students are pursuing a transfer degree, a diploma, a short-term certificate, or other credential. As an open access system, many students we serve face barriers to completion and TBR is committed to confronting and addressing those barriers where they exist.
- **Community and Personal Impact** – The mission of a TBR college is complex, and central to that mission is serving and improving the condition of individuals, families, and the communities across the state. This theme manifests itself in tangible ways such as economic vitality and mobility, but also by improving and enriching the communities we serve.
- **Collaboration** – Central to TBR's mission and our success is the ability to work collaboratively both within and across the system and its partners across the state and nation. Within the system, TBR values healthy relationships between colleges and with all colleges and the system office. Across Tennessee, listening to and working with our external partners in state government, higher education, K12 education, industry, and philanthropy are crucial to enhancing student success and workforce development. Finally, TBR recognizes the value of voices and perspectives outside Tennessee, whether they be foundations, other state systems, think tanks, and other partners who share our commitment to student success and workforce development.
- **Innovation** – To meet the challenges we face, TBR will need to explore innovations that improve the ways we educate, train, and serve students. A hallmark of Tennessee and TBR in recent memory, the commitment to innovation will push us to explore how we reimagine instruction to meet students' needs, to rethink our current student service structures, and to reinvent systems that are outdated and misaligned with our current student needs and challenges.
- **Capacity and Infrastructure** –TBR can leverage our structure as a system to serve colleges and students more efficiently and effectively. The system office can implement shared services and operate other college functions that are more difficult or costly to do individually, such as business functions, data capacity, information technology, and others. Furthermore, we can help build college capacity by identifying, evaluating, promoting, and investing in best practices.