

DATE: April 26, 2012

SUBJECT: Status of Program Approval Process for Community College System

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Information

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: At the July 2011 meeting, the Commission approved the THEC Policy A1.0 (*New Academic Programs: Approval Process*) and Policy A1.1 (*New Academic Programs*) to delegate statutory authority for approving new community college certificates and associate degrees to the Tennessee Board of Regents. The rationale for this policy revision is to support the development of the “Tennessee community college system” as directed by the Complete College Tennessee Act of 2010.

Since this policy revision, TBR has approved an associate degree program in Advance Integrated Industrial Technology at Columbia State Community College at its March 2012 meeting. The policy revision also allows all new programs that TBR approves for one community college to be approved for other TBR community colleges, should they wish to meet the same quality and resource standards.

The Commission did not delegate authority to TBR for conducting post-approval review and evaluation of all community college academic degree programs and certificates. All community college programs will continue to be monitored and reviewed through the THEC Post-Approval Monitoring process, the evaluation of program productivity, and the program quality assurance requirements of the THEC Performance Funding program.