

**DATE:** April 24, 2014

**SUBJECT:** Drive to 55 Status Report

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:** Information

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** Discussion will be held concerning provisions of the Drive to 55 (D55), Governor Haslam’s ambitious set of initiatives aimed at significantly increasing the number of adult Tennesseans with educational credentials beyond high school. More specifically, the objective of the Governor’s effort is for 55 percent of adult Tennesseans to have earned postsecondary degrees or certificates by the year 2025. The new Tennessee Promise program, which makes available free tuition and fees for recent high school graduates at the 13 community colleges across the State, is a central feature of D55 and is the first of its kind in the nation.

In addition to the Tennessee Promise, other D55 programs that will be highlighted at the Commission meeting include:

SAILS, the innovative alternative to traditional remedial math instruction at the community colleges;

Development of an online college preparation course for first-time students;

Expansion of Dual Enrollment opportunities for junior and senior high school students;

Online innovations, including MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) and implementation of advanced analytics in existing online courses;

Targeted programs and services for adult students;

Targeted programs and services for Veterans; and

LEAP (Labor and Education Alignment Program)