

DATE: July 27, 2006

SUBJECT: P-16 Status Report

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Information

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Tennessee P-16 Council is the oversight body for a state-wide agenda to improve student readiness for college. This state-wide agenda complements the activities of local school-college collaboratives--some of them long-standing and others recently developed--to further the objectives of the P-16 movement. The overall goal of the P-16 framework in Tennessee is to increase student success at all levels and, especially to promote student access to and completion of post-secondary education.

This status report will focus on P-16 activities from two perspectives: (1) the state-wide mathematics curricula alignment initiative set in motion by the Tennessee P-16 Council and (2) networks of activity and institution-sponsored P-16 initiatives coordinated in part by the Tennessee Board of Regents and the University of Tennessee System. The Tennessee Higher Education Commission staff is constructing a posting dedicated to P-16 on the THEC website. This avenue will provide information about progress of State and local activity.

(1) Tennessee P-16 Council Mathematics Curricula Alignment Committee. With membership from K-12 and higher education, the 35-member Committee of math faculty, curriculum specialists, deans, academic officers, school system representatives, the State Board of Education, the State Department of Education, and staff from UT, TBR, and THEC has met regularly after being authorized by the Tennessee P-16 Council in October, 2005. The Committee is using a systematic process to analyze high school and first-year college mathematics curricula to ensure a "seamless" set of standards and student learning outcomes. From this gap analysis and standards reconfiguration, the Committee will recommend modification of the State mathematics course frames, early assessment to provide appropriate student placement through 4 units of mathematics in high school, and the requirement of math in the senior year. The Committee will also approach the concordant university admission requirements and first-year math standards. A day-long work session dedicated to alignment of the Tennessee Algebra I curriculum frame against the ACT Standards for College Readiness is scheduled for August 1. The Committee will focus on Algebra II, Geometry, advanced mathematics and parallel courses at the same levels in work sessions to follow. Information about the Math Initiative, meeting materials and summaries, and critical data can be found at the THEC website, at "Math Initiative" on the Policy, Planning and Research link (<http://www.state.tn.us/thec>).

(2) System-coordinated and institution-sponsored P-16 initiatives.

Tennessee Board of Regents. The TBR has a new link to P-16 information (<http://www.tbr.edu>). This link provides the following information:

- Information about local and regional P-16 councils, including contact information and geographic locations
- Updates on regional and local P-16 councils in the Tennessee P-16 Network
- Presentations and reports given at the Tennessee P-16 meeting March 21, 2006
- Documents for groups desiring to establish local P-16 councils
- Guides for councils for addressing selected goals or issues as a action team
- Links to information on Network meetings and other archived materials

The University of Tennessee System. The University of Tennessee System reports significant activity among UT campuses. Examples of these P-16 events follow. A summary of these events will be posted on the THEC P-16 website.

- UT Martin hosts professional development Summer programs for teachers. The UT Martin College of Education and Behavioral Sciences has received grants to encourage professional development for teachers in Northwest and Southwest Tennessee. The institute improves preparation for teaching math and science in middle schools, working with English as a Second Language needs in elementary schools, and teaching of American History in the 4th, 7th, and 11th grades.
- UT Chattanooga's "Promoting Resolve in Science and Math (PRISM)" program serves 50 students in the Hamilton County Schools from families designated low-income. The project works to involve parents, the host institution, and community resources in promoting preparation for college.
- UT Knoxville's "Great Schools Partnership" brings together all stakeholders in the community to focus resources on education, particularly for quality early childhood education, academic and career preparation for middle and high school students, and retention of high-performing teachers in the Knox County schools.
- The UT System office has begun pre-planning for the Governor's High School for Math and Science, a residential school with the mission to provide challenging educational opportunities for students pursuing careers in math, science, and engineering. The entity will also serve as a laboratory for development and dissemination of best practices in math and science education for teachers throughout Tennessee