

DATE: April 29, 2010

SUBJECT: Implementation of the Complete College Tennessee Act of 2010

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Information

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The early 2010 special session of the General Assembly produced the Complete College Tennessee legislation which Governor Bredesen signed into law. This transformative legislation sets a clear direction to address the need for many more Tennesseans to be better educated at a time when the state’s fiscal capacity to support higher education has diminished drastically.

Complete College Tennessee Act of 2010

The Complete College Tennessee Act of 2010 is a significant public policy statement that also establishes expectations for higher education. The CCTA mandates change in state-level and institutional policies – academic, fiscal, and administrative. The Tennessee Higher Education Commission, University of Tennessee Board of Trustees, and the Tennessee Board of Regents are charged with specific responsibilities for implementing the legislation, with most provisions requiring implementation within the next two years.

State Master Plan for Higher Education

The 2010-2015 State Master Plan for Higher Education must promote the CCTA overarching goal of increasing the number of Tennesseans with a college degree and project strategies as means to this end. The Master Plan Steering Committee and its work committees – Formula, Performance Funding, Adult Participation, and Academic Affairs – have met routinely to frame a plan for the next five years. THEC staff will develop a draft Master Plan based on these discussions for the Steering Committee to review at its May 21 meeting. After revision from Steering Committee recommendations, THEC staff will distribute a second draft for wide review by campuses, systems, and other constituents. The objective is to present a Master Plan for the Commission’s consideration at the July 2010 meeting.

Outcomes-based Funding Formula and other contributing elements of the Master Plan

The development of an outcomes-based formula continues, with broad input and on-going refinement. The status of these deliberations will be reported to the Commission April 29, 2010. Likewise, the status of the other work committees will be presented to the Commission at the upcoming meeting. Committees addressing Performance Funding, Adult Participation Making Opportunity Affordable Initiative, and Academic Affairs-related provisions of the Complete College Tennessee Act of 2010 have made steady progress in

constructing features of the master plan than contribute to the overall unifying goal of increasing degree production.

Program Supply/Market Demand Analysis

Yet another support function for the goal of increased degree production and workforce development will be a supply/demand study commissioned by THEC through MOA funds. The UT Center for Business and Economic Development is undertaking a Program Supply/Market Demand analysis that will project emerging labor market fields to which institutions can respond in their degree and certificate program planning. The availability of such information should assist institutions in redirecting funds from under-producing degree programs to those that more directly anticipate employment of graduates. Dr. Bill Fox, Director of CBER, will brief the Commission on the status of this study.