

DATE: July 20, 2016

SUBJECT: CollegeforTN.org Update

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Information

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: CollegeforTN.org is a free online web portal that provides students and families with resources to research and organize the college and career search process. The site is primarily aimed at K-12 students, parents, and educators. Popular features include career and interest assessments, a guided resume builder, free ACT and SAT test preparation, customizable high school and college planning timelines, a scholarship finder, and financial aid guides and resources that are specific to Tennessee. The site provides students with one place to store information needed to prepare for and apply to college while connecting with the college access professional in their school.

We anticipate the full rollout of the portal in time for use by students this fall. The vision for the new portal is:

- to serve as a single, integrated destination for information and resources regarding college-going in Tennessee;
- to give students back their data so that they can adequately plan and make informed decisions regarding postsecondary education; and
- to provide educators, parents, and other key influencers tools and data to track students' progress towards a successful postsecondary transition.

The CollegeforTN.org initiative is funded through multiple funding streams, including Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship, federal GEAR UP grant, and Tennessee Department of Education funds. Staff will provide the Commission with an overview of the portal's features and plans for system rollout this fall.