

Agenda Item: II.C.

DATE: July 23, 2009

SUBJECT: Making Opportunity Affordable Status Report

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Information

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Tennessee is one of eleven states participating in the 2009 “learning year” of Making Opportunity Affordable (MOA), a national Lumina-funded initiative designed to increase the certificate and degree productivity of state higher education systems. Tennessee’s successful proposal was predicated on: framing the 2010-2015 Master Plan around the need to increase educational attainment levels in Tennessee; tying productivity goals to fiscal incentives in the public higher education funding formula and the Performance Funding program; and reaching out to under-participating populations, particularly adult students.

Staff will present updates on MOA activities including:

- A Student Enrollment and Completion Simulation Tool that uses Tennessee’s student level higher education data to simulate annual and accumulated numbers of students enrolling in and graduating from the state’s higher education system. This tool will be used to inform state goal setting;
- The MOA-TN website; and
- A proposal for a Lumina-funded MOA “implementation grant,” which will award up to \$2 million over four years to five of the eleven participating states.