

DATE: November 20, 2014

SUBJECT: Office of P-16 Initiatives Status Report

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Information

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Office of P-16 Initiatives administers programs focused on expanding college access and success in Tennessee. Current initiatives include:

- Funded through a seven-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education, GEAR UP TN works with Collaboratives in 15 Tennessee counties to promote college readiness and success. GEAR UP TN Collaboratives serve a cohort of students starting in the seventh grade continuing through their first year of postsecondary education. The program also provides services to high school seniors each year of the grant. GEAR UP TN is designed to promote student achievement and expand the college-going culture statewide.
- The College Access Challenge Grant (CACG) is a federal formula grant program focused on developing partnerships to promote college access and success. In an effort to build on previous CACG successes and the state's college attainment goals, Tennessee's CACG program strives to address three areas of focus: expand statewide college access and success efforts, build capacity to meet college access and completion goals, and bolster initiatives to engage adults about completing a higher education credential.
- In October 2011, Lumina Foundation for Education awarded the Tennessee Higher Education Commission a Latino Student Success Grant aimed at increasing the number of Latinos completing higher education in Memphis. The initiative directs its work through a three-tiered approach: public will building promoting the community's increased awareness of Latino student success, the formal development of a collaborative structure focused on Latino student success, and the creation and expansion of college access and success programmatic work through Abriendo Puertas (Opening Doors).
- The Tennessee College Access and Success Network connects college access and success programs with like-minded organizations for the purpose of increasing the number of Tennesseans participating and succeeding in postsecondary opportunities. The Network was established through a Lumina Foundation grant and expanded through Race to the Top funds. Its purpose is to create a college-going culture in communities across the state by expanding and creating new college access and success programs, educating professionals, and facilitating statewide advocacy.