

DATE: July 25, 2013**SUBJECT:** 2012-13 Tennessee Higher Education Fact Book**ACTION RECOMMENDED:** Information

Staff will provide an overview of the 2012-13 *Tennessee Higher Education Fact Book*, a central source of information on higher education characteristics and trends. It comprises four sections: Student Participation, Student Success, Academic & Fiscal Trends, and the outcomes-based public higher education Funding Formula. The *Fact Book* is one of THEC's statutory responsibilities, and it is updated annually.

The presentation highlights the distribution of fall 2012 enrollments across all sectors of Tennessee higher education and takes note of a recent downturn in first-time freshmen and total enrollment within certain public sectors, concomitant to the downturn in Tennessee's public high school graduates. Freshman-to-sophomore retention rates also edged downward across all public sectors in the most recent year for which data were available.

Conversely, the report shows steady, incremental growth in six-year graduation rates across all public sectors. The presentation concludes by highlighting the following upward trends in the number of degrees awarded by Tennessee's public postsecondary institutions: explosive growth in certificates; significant growth in associate's and bachelor's degrees, and incremental growth in graduate degrees.