

DATE: November 19, 2015

SUBJECT: Office of P-16 Initiatives Status Report

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Information

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

GEAR UP TN Youth Summit

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 Memphis Latino Student Success Collaborative directs its work using a three-tiered approach: public will building focused on the importance of increasing degree completion among the Latino population, the development and expansion of college access and success programming including the Abriendo Puertas (Opening Doors) college access and success mentoring program, and the formal development of a community-wide collaborative focused on increasing Latino student success in Memphis.

Tennessee Promise Forward Grants Awarded

There are exciting changes coming to CollegeforTN.org in the next several months. After completing a competitive proposal process, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission signed contracts with new vendors to provide Tennessee's online college and career planning portal and the electronic transcript exchange. Moving forward, THEC will partner with Graduation Alliance to provide the CollegeforTN.org web portal and the National Student Clearinghouse will serve as the state's vendor for electronic transcripts.

The CollegeforTN.org website will operate in its current state until January 1, 2016. At that point, a transitional website will be in place until the new website is ready in the spring of 2016. The transitional site will be interactive and will still provide users with a full menu of Tennessee-specific college and career planning resources. Once the transition is complete, CollegeforTN.org will be a robust portal of resources for students, management tools for educators, and college access information for professionals.

The electronic transcript exchange, which sends student transcripts to postsecondary institutions and to the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation for lottery scholarship verification, is dormant as of November 1, 2015. The new electronic transcript solution will be ready to send transcripts in spring 2016.