



TACIR

The Tennessee Advisory Commission
on Intergovernmental Relations



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Commission Members

FROM: Cliff Lippard *Cliff*
Executive Director

DATE: 28 September 2022

SUBJECT: Commission and Staff Updates

Commission Update

We were deeply saddened to learn of the recent passing of retired TACIR Executive Director Dr. Harry A. Green. Dr. Green was instrumental in the 1978 founding of the Commission and served as our executive director from 1981 until his retirement in 2012. He built the Commission into a respected forum and addressed many of the state's more pressing policy problems during his tenure. Dr. Green is probably best known for his development of the TACIR fiscal capacity formula, but he affected policy across a broad range of policy areas, including land use, property valuation, and taxation, as well as emergency communications and infrastructure analysis, among many others. A copy of the Senate Joint Resolution honoring Dr. Green upon the occasion of his retirement is attached. Please join me in a moment of silence.

On another note, staff continues to work with the Department of Education, the State Board of Education, and the Comptroller of the Treasury, as well as the Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research, to ensure a smooth transition from the Basic Education Program to the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement formula. We are currently evaluating potential improvements to the TACIR fiscal capacity formula, including the substitution of current payment in lieu of tax data for outdated tax equivalency payment data. Any change would be reviewed by the Comptroller and approved as a recommendation by the State Board before submission to the General Assembly for authorization.

Staff Update

In recognition of his exemplary research and analysis skills, project management proficiency, and demonstrated potential for professional growth, we have promoted Michael Mount to the position of research director. Please join me in congratulating Michael on this promotion.

Information Technology Manager Mark Patterson has reached 20 years of service with the state of Tennessee. Please join me in congratulating Mark on achieving this milestone.

Finally, we are thrilled to welcome two new staff members, Senior Research Associate Kevin McCarthy and Research Associate Maame Danquah. Kevin holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Florida State University and a Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree from the University of South Florida. He also has several years of government experience, most recently as a planning associate with the City of Columbia. Maame is a recent graduate of East Tennessee State University, where she earned a Master of Public Health degree. Please join me in welcoming Kevin and Maame to the Commission.