

DATE: November 14, 2013**SUBJECT:** Core to College Status Report**ACTION RECOMMENDED:** Information

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Core to College is a multi-state grant initiative designed to promote strong collaboration between higher education and the K-12 sectors in the implementation of the Common Core State Standards and aligned assessments. Core to College is funded by Rockefeller Philanthropy Associates with technical assistance provided by Education First. Through this funding, the Core to College Director has focused on successfully executing two projects: General Education Redesign and P-16 Curriculum Councils. Both of these projects were developed with specific, measurable outcomes and timelines that allow for a clear assessment regarding program progress and delivery.

General Education Redesign

With the support of the Tennessee Board of Regents and University of Tennessee, the Core to College Director formed faculty redesign teams to assess and align the K-12 Common Core State Standards to credit bearing, entry level courses in English and Math to create a more seamless transition from high school to college for Tennessee students. Each team consists of three primary content specialists and supplemented by a team of external evaluators representing each higher education institution and governing board.

To date, both the English and Math primary teams have developed Core-Aligned Course Profiles with appendices for their respective entry-level courses: English 1010: Expository Writing and Math 1530: College Algebra. The materials are currently being reviewed by external evaluators in preparation for a spring pilot.

Regional P-16 Curriculum Councils

Eight regional Curriculum Councils were formed in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Education Centers of Regional Excellence (CORE) Offices to promote better communication and relationships between K-12 and higher education regarding Common Core implementation.

To date, each council has met, identified a common area of need, and developed an action plan towards a measurable outcome for the coming year. Each council meeting was attended by a combination of faculty and administrators from K-12 districts, private and public institutions of higher education, and state governing agencies. Examples of council projects include: development of a regional handbook for student teaching experiences to ensure inclusion of all stakeholders, focused work on reading instruction alignment that spans the spectrum of pre-K to the work force, and conducting a regional skills gap analysis between K-12 preparation and higher education expectations.