

DATE: April 22, 2015

SUBJECT: College Access Programs Update

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Information

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

GEAR UP TN

GEAR UP TN provides Tennessee students with a clear path to college. 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, the Class of 2018, starting in the seventh grade continuing through their first year of postsecondary education. The cohort students are currently in ninth grade. 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.

Over the last year, GEAR UP TN provided services to 21,722 students. Staff will share grant outcomes across key metrics, including college-going, FAFSA completion, ACT scores, etc.

Tennessee Promise Forward Grants

In March, THEC released a call for proposals for small competitive grants, called Tennessee Promise Forward Grants, focused on increasing the matriculation and retention of Tennessee Promise students at public two-year institutions. Funded using College Access Challenge Grant funds, Tennessee Promise Forward aims to build institutions' capacity to serve Tennessee Promise students with particular emphasis placed on associate degree completion and, if applicable, transfer to a four-year institution. THEC will award grants to institutions that identify scalable, promising practices which support degree completion among Tennessee Promise students.