

DATE: January 29, 2015

SUBJECT: LEAP Program Update

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Information

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Labor Education Alignment Program (LEAP) is a state funded grant program for Community Colleges and Colleges of Applied Technology throughout the state. Administered by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, these grants are designed to provide resources to regional collaborations consisting of partners across education, economic development, and workforce sectors so that they may address skills gaps throughout the state.

Last fall, an RFP was issued to foster higher education’s collaboration with local workforce boards, employers, and high school career and technical education administrators to address workforce “skills gaps.” In December, the Workforce Subcabinet announced twelve awards to regional collaboratives from all across the state.

Funds for these proposals are eligible to be used to enhance, expand, or create new academic programs that fill a critical and demonstrable workforce need; to acquire equipment demonstrated to be crucial to the development of new workforce-essential competencies; and to build employer-driven career pathways bridging K-12/higher education.

Staff will update the Commission on recent developments in the LEAP Program.