



Tab 11 MoEASE Update

Coordinating Board for Higher Education
June 16, 2021

BACKGROUND

In an effort to meet the “Big Goal” of having 60 percent of Missourians hold a high-quality postsecondary credential by 2025, the Missouri Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development (DHEWD) has launched a multi-year effort to identify equity gaps in educational attainment and develop policy recommendations to address those gaps. This work aligns with Goal 1.5 in *The Blueprint for Higher Education*, which commits the state to reduce inequities in higher education by race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, and disability, in addition to creating a postsecondary faculty that proportionately reflects the diversity and demographic makeup of the state. The department’s work in this area began in 2019 with an Equity in Missouri Higher Education Report, Summit, and Hackathon.

The Equity Hackathon brought together key stakeholders from institutions, businesses, and community organizations to discuss solutions to the persistent inequities in higher education. Teams of “hackers” were divided into rooms to focus on main topics related to higher education in Missouri, and asked to identify areas of priority and possible solutions. One consistent theme identified by the teams was the need to reshape Missouri’s education accountability frameworks for both K-12 and postsecondary education, to prioritize success measures connected to postsecondary education and workforce outcomes through an equity framework.

As a result, the Missouri Departments of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and MDHEWD created the Missouri Equitable Access, Success, and Engagement (MoEASE) framework to bridge the work of the two agencies and create a comprehensive ecosystem – a seamless, student-centered PK-20 continuum that improves outcomes and opportunities for all students to achieve success in the classroom and in the workforce.

However, just as the work was beginning, the COVID-19 pandemic hit the state. The original framework with regional hubs and tiers of leadership became unfeasible due to safety concerns. As a result, staff developed a new idea that espoused the original principles of MoEASE – accountability for equity across the education and training ecosystem, implemented according to a regional approach. DESE and MDHEWD will lead a series of communities of practice that bring together teams to implement best practices shown to close opportunity gaps within the K12, higher education, and/or workforce development systems.

CURRENT STATUS

In April, staff from DESE and DHEWD convened an Equity Advisory Committee to identify best practices that may be scaled within the state and to design the framework of the first community of practice. The committee is currently planning its work and will meet monthly throughout 2021.

NEXT STEPS

The Equity Advisory Committee plans to announce the MoEASE community of practice initiative at the October 2021 Equity Summit. There will be three subcommittees to divide up the work moving forward:

1. An application review subcommittee will collect applications to participate, review the applications, and select teams for the first community of practice to be launched in 2022.
2. A marketing and branding subcommittee will work with department staff to design a logo, develop a marketing and communications strategy, and develop a toolkit for other members to share with their communities of influence.

3. A curriculum design subcommittee will consider what type of training makes sense for the communities of practice, identify advisors for the participants, and develop a timeline for participation.

RECOMMENDATION

This is an information item only.

NO ATTACHMENTS