



Tab 21 Modern Student Engagement Strategy

Coordinating Board for Higher Education
March 4, 2020

BACKGROUND

The 2020 DHEWD Placemat Initiative to develop a quality attainment strategy for modern students requires an understanding of the current higher education environment and identification of effective strategies to increase success for modern students. A significant amount of work needs to be completed to achieve these strategies. This work continues through 2020 and will culminate in initiatives placed on the 2021 DHEWD Placemat.

With the implementation of the Fast Track Workforce Incentive Grant this academic year and Missouri's Big Goal to achieve 60 percent of working-age Missourians with a postsecondary credential by 2025, it is imperative we understand the population of students that will benefit from Fast Track and ensure their success.

To start, it is important to have a common definition of modern students. Previously, this population has been referred to as non-traditional, commuter, or adult learners. Based on currently available data, DHEWD staff have determined "modern student" is a better label for this population. Staff define modern students as students that meet any of these indicators:

- Age (over the age of 24)
- Has dependents
- Has independent student status
- Works off-campus, full-time, or to support self/dependents
- Has been out of school for more than one year
- Is a returning student
- Married
- Military-involved
- Foster child
- Justice-involved

Current national estimates from IPEDS place modern students (nationally referred to as non-traditional students, age 25 or older) as 26.6 percent of all student enrollments in higher education institutions. For Missouri public higher education institutions, that rate is 18.8 percent.*

Missouri's most recent demographic landscape (2018) identifies the total population of working age Missourians (age 25-64) that do not possess a postsecondary credential:

	Actual Number of Missourians	Percentage of total workforce
Some college, no credential	306,400	9.8%
No college	1,141,320	36.3%
Total	1,447,720	46.1%

This 1.5 million potential modern student population may access higher education to complete a credential for workforce placement or advancement at some point in their lives. Of this population, 21.1 percent have attempted college and did not complete a credential.

It is critical that we understand this population and the necessary tools and strategies for their academic progress and completion if we hope to attain our Big Goal.

*Source: IPEDS 2017 Enrollment

NOTE: National percentages come from degree-granting institutions only.

CURRENT STATUS

Preliminary research has identified several categories of institutional initiatives and best practices to increase modern student success:

- Academic Initiatives (e.g., classroom strategies, program offerings, program modalities and flexibility)
- Campus Interaction Initiatives (e.g., one-stop shops, extended office hours)
- Student Service Initiatives (e.g., referrals to wraparound services, adequate child care)
- Funding Initiatives (e.g., funding programs geared specifically to modern student populations)

We continue to research best practices to increase modern student success and completion from other states and within our institutions, and to meet with campus stakeholders (chief academic officers and student affairs officers) to determine issues facing campuses. Further, research in Missouri's data regarding modern student success and completion outcomes will be completed as part of this work.

NEXT STEPS

The research phase will continue through this month; from this a prioritized list of potential initiatives and best practices will be presented as an information item to the CBHE at the June retreat. Selected initiatives will become part of the 2021 department placemat.

RECOMMENDATION

This is an information item only.

NO ATTACHMENTS