



Academic Affairs News

Volume 3: January 2016

Greetings,

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2016. Inside you'll find updates on the Missouri Math Summit and the Pathways to Completion Initiative, as well as an overview of the Fall Faculty Training Day coordinated by the Multi-State Collaborative to Advance Learning Outcomes (MSC). We're also excited to announce the upcoming annual Committee on Transfer and Articulation Conference. The conference will be held Feb. 19, 2016, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City.

Commissioner David Russell intended to retire effective Jan. 1, but the search for his successor has not been completed. Commissioner Russell has agreed to delay his departure until March 1, at which time Deputy Commissioner Leroy Wade will take over as interim commissioner. The Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE) will continue its search for a new commissioner.

On behalf of the Missouri Department of Higher Education, we send our best wishes to you for a safe and prosperous 2016.

With best regards,

Rusty Monhollon

If you have comments or questions, or would like to subscribe to this newsletter, please contact the newsletter's editor Greta Westerwald, greta.westerwald@dhe.mo.gov.

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Pathways to Completion Initiative

Dr. Rusty Monhollon, Assistant Commissioner for Academic Affairs

Over the past five years, with the support of key institutional and political leaders, the Missouri Department of Higher Education (MDHE) has sought to remove barriers to student success in an effort to increase educational attainment. Our progress has been helped by the passage of enabling legislation and engagement with national initiatives. Examples include several initiatives from the governor's office to improve efficiency (course redesign and performance funding), as well as the legislative mandates contained in HB 1042. One of those mandates directs all public institutions of higher education to "replicate best practices in remediation," with the intent of improving student retention and degree completion. Institutional representatives and MDHE staff collaborated to develop "Principles of Best Practice in Remedial Education," which the CBHE approved in September 2013.

Several of the "Principles of Best Practice in Remedial Education" have been implemented since 2013, including the statewide placement policy and improved data collection. Another best practice is the alignment of coursework with students' programs of study, especially in mathematics. Over the past 18 months, MDHE has been developing alternative mathematics pathways through the Missouri Mathematics Pathways Initiative, with support from partners which include Complete College America, the Charles A. Dana Center at the University of Texas-Austin, the Council on Public Higher Education, and the Missouri Community College Association. This initiative is guided by a simple premise: College algebra, which is designed to prepare students for calculus, may not be the gateway mathematics course best suited for every academic program.

Since October 2014, the Missouri Mathematics Pathways Task Force (MMPT), made up of mathematics faculty from all two-year and four-year public institutions, has been exploring options and making recommendations that will significantly increase students' success rates in mathematics gateway courses and the percentage of students completing degree programs. In June 2015, MMPT released a report with a series of recommendations to achieve this goal. This past October, MMPT hosted a second statewide mathematics summit (see below).

MMPT, which now includes representatives from independent institutions and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), has been developing a plan of action to guide its work for the next year and beyond. MMPT's efforts will be greatly enhanced by the support provided by the Charles A. Dana Center. Earlier this year the Dana Center invited MDHE to apply to participate in the Center's Mathematics Pathways to Completion initiative. Last month the department received word that Missouri was one of five states selected to participate in the three-year project.

This initiative builds on the impressive work the Dana Center has done in collaboration with colleges and universities in Texas, what it calls the New Mathways Project (NMP). The goal of the NMP's Mathematics Pathways to Completion project is to dramatically improve the success of students in developmental and gateway mathematics courses by implementing the NMP principles at scale in a state. Through Missouri's

participation in this project, we believe the development and implementation of alternative mathematics pathways across the entire state of Missouri will significantly increase student success rates in mathematics gateway courses without compromising the integrity of mathematics instruction, and thus result in increased degree completion. We also see our work on math pathways as an opportunity for a radical overhaul of mathematics education in Missouri. Math educators in Missouri are hungry for the opportunity to rethink what they teach and how they teach it across the whole education continuum. That is why a key component of our work is to ensure alignment of all mathematics courses—remedial and credit-bearing—with the student's program of study. We will also work to assure there is alignment between math pathways and secondary school curriculum.

Corequisite at Scale Initiative

Dr. Rusty Monhollon, Assistant Commissioner for Higher Education

Another best practice in remedial education is the development of alternative delivery methods to move students into credit bearing courses—typically in English and mathematics—as quickly as possible. These methods should provide appropriate instruction to accommodate the diverse needs of developmental and remedial students. One of the most promising alternatives is the corequisite model, in which students requiring remedial education are placed in the credit bearing gateway course and provided the appropriate academic support to address their academic needs. Several Missouri institutions have implemented or are preparing to implement the corequisite model.

In October, Complete College America selected Missouri as one of six states to participate in its Corequisite at Scale 2016 cohort. Participating institutions provide remedial education to approximately 97 percent of the students requiring remediation. As a participant, Missouri has committed to scaling the implementation of corequisite academic support at the vast majority of institutions that currently deliver remedial education with a goal of serving the vast majority of students who would otherwise be placed in traditional remedial education. Complete College America will provide professional facilitators and national content experts to develop a state plan for the scaling of corequisite support. Additionally, CCA will provide technical assistance to assist institutions in their efforts to develop and implement scaled corequisite support models. The initiative officially begins with a national workshop in late March 2016.

Mathematics Summit

Jennifer Plemons, Coordinator

The Missouri Department of Higher Education, with support from a number of partners, including Complete College America, The Charles A. Dana Center at the University of Texas, Austin, The Council on Public Higher Education, and the Missouri Community College Association, hosted the 2015 Missouri Mathematics Summit on October 30, 2015, in Jefferson City, Missouri. The 2015 Missouri Mathematics Summit was designed to engage faculty and administrators from Missouri's public and independent institutions in a discussion about the recently drafted Missouri Mathematics Pathways Report, developed by the Missouri Mathematics Pathways Task Force, and to work toward securing a foundation for the implementation of new mathematics pathways for students.

The 2015 Summit was widely attended by both public and independent institutions of higher education in Missouri. The Summit provided attendees with opportunities to network, hear informative presentations, and inquire about as well as share best practices in postsecondary mathematics reform. Summit attendees heard presentations on the mathematics pathways necessary for students choosing to pursue various academic disciplines, such as those within the humanities, social sciences, and education fields. There were also presentations related to course redesign, including the corequisite model.

As the department continues to pursue this initiative in Missouri, the Missouri Mathematics Pathways Task Force will work alongside the department and will assist in the implementation of key initiative objectives that will significantly increase students' success rates in mathematics gateway courses and the percentage of students completing degree programs. The department will continue to provide updates to the Coordinating Board for Higher Education regarding the work of the task force and progress to date regarding all mathematics pathways efforts in Missouri.



More than 100 people, including professors of mathematics and academic officers from Missouri institutions attended the 2015 Missouri Mathematics Summit in Jefferson City.

Photo by Jessica Duren of MDHE

For more information about the summit, visit the [Math Summit's website](#) or contact Jennifer Plemons at jennifer.plemons@dhe.mo.gov or (573) 522-2385.

Multi-State Collaborative to Advance Learning Outcomes

Angelette Prichett, Coordinator

Missouri participated as one of nine states in the Multi-State Collaborative (MSC) to Advance Learning Outcomes Assessment pilot project. MSC completed the proof-of-concept pilot study in August 2015. Fifty-nine public institutions submitted more than 7,000 pieces of student work. Five Missouri institutions submitted more than 1,200 pieces of student work (of the 7,000) to be evaluated using the written communication, quantitative literacy, and critical thinking VALUE rubrics. Faculty were recruited from across the nation to score the submitted artifacts, with 11 faculty from Missouri. Eighty-nine percent of the faculty later reported they “strongly agree” or “agree” that the VALUE rubrics were a useful tool for evaluating student work quality.

In July 2015, MDHE hosted a recruitment event in Jefferson City to involve more institutions for the demonstration year. Participating institutions sent representatives to provide their experience and insight into the time, financial and staff commitments necessary to implement the project at the campus level. While an additional five institutions have joined the project, MDHE is still seeking additional institutions to participate.

In September 2015, MSC moved into its demonstration phase, the first year of implementing the program full-scale. MDHE held its Fall Faculty Training session at Columbia College on Dec. 4, 2015. More than 40 faculty and administrators from seven participating institutions were in attendance.

The training provided:

- Overview of the project and discussion of rubric creation
- Use of the required rubrics for the project (written communication, quantitative literacy, critical thinking, and civic engagement)
- Development of appropriate assignments
- Training on artifact collection
- Discussion of artifact scoring
- Discussion of next steps for the project

The guest speaker and training facilitator was Dr. Terrel Rhodes, Vice President for the Office of Quality, Curriculum and Assessment at the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U).

For questions regarding MSC, contact Angelette Prichett, director of Missouri Academic Program Review, at angelette.prichett@dhe.mo.gov or (573) 522-2150.

Academic Program Review

Angelette Prichett, Coordinator

MDHE staff is working with the Committee on Curriculum and Assessment to review and edit the Policy for the Approval of Academic Programs and Off-Site Locations and Existing Academic Program review, as well as establish policies and procedures for the review of provisionally approved programs. The timeline for completion of this project is June 2016.

The existing policies and procedures for the review of academic programs have not been substantially revised since 1999. Beginning July 1, 2011, the Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE) began issuing five-year provisional approval to all new academic programs proposed by public institutions. The first review of programs having received provisional approval will begin in September 2016. If the review indicates that the program is not performing as expected, the CBHE may recommend termination of the program, unless there are compelling justifications for continuing the program. MDHE will be working with institutions in the upcoming months to develop the criteria and procedures for the review.

For questions regarding academic program review, contact Angelette Prichett, director of Missouri Academic Program Review, at angelette.prichett@dhe.mo.gov or (573) 522-2150.

Committee on Transfer and Articulation

Amy Werner, Coordinator

MDHE would like to remind all who may be interested, of the annual Committee on Transfer and Articulation (COTA) Conference. The conference will be held at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City on Feb. 19, 2016.

Committee on Transfer & Articulation Conference

You Ain't Seen Nothin' Yet ... Transfer & Completion

February 19, 2016
Capitol Plaza Hotel • Jefferson City, Mo

[LEARN MORE >](#)

The Committee on Transfer and Articulation invites you to register for the conference. The cost of attending is \$65.00, and includes breakfast and lunch. Academic officers, transfer and articulation officers, reverse transfer coordinators, faculty, high school administrators, advisors, counselors and anyone interested in transfer

student programs and policies will benefit from this informative and dynamic conference. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Capitol Plaza hotel on Thursday, Feb. 18, for \$98.00 a night. The code is 160218MOC.

Conference programs will include updates on reverse transfer, military credit, transfer and articulation officers, Missouri Mathematic Pathways Initiative, advising, competency-based education, dual credit, TruMACC program, revision of the transfer credit guidelines, and more!

Due to previous record attendance, it is strongly recommended that reservations be made as soon as possible. For more information about registration, visit <http://dhe.mo.gov/cota/cotaconference.php>.

For questions about COTA or the 2016 conference, contact Amy Werner, MDHE staff liaison to COTA, at Amy.Werner@dhe.mo.gov. For more information visit COTA's website at <http://dhe.mo.gov/cota/>.

A Blueprint for Higher Education (Coordinated Plan)

Dr. Rusty Monhollon, Assistant Commissioner for Higher Education

Missouri's Coordinating Board for Higher Education is charged in statute to periodically adopt a coordinated plan to address the state's higher education needs. The last plan was adopted in 2008.

To keep pace with the state's higher education needs, the Missouri Department of Higher Education has drafted a new coordinated plan titled *Preparing Missourians to Succeed: A Blueprint for Higher Education*.

A steering committee of thought leaders from business and industry, education and government was assembled to assist with the development of the new coordinated plan for higher education in Missouri. Steering committee members provided valuable information during public hearings and work sessions and contributed their expertise throughout the process.

Nine public hearings were held throughout the state to gather input from Missourians about the state's higher education system. The public was invited to offer feedback during public hearings or by submitting comments online.

The coordinating board and MDHE staff are committed to using the Blueprint as a guide in advancing the common public policy agenda for higher education. The plan advances five goals with supporting strategies that can be employed to expand opportunities for degree attainment, keep college affordable, deliver on the promise of quality and excellence, advance research and innovation, and increase the public's investment in higher education.

The CBHE reviewed the Blueprint at its December meeting. The board asked the MDHE to make a few modifications to the document, which the department is now doing. The CBHE will review the revised version in mid-January. Once the board approves, the final draft will be posted to the MDHE website.

Some implementing strategies require nothing more than the commitment of institutions and their constituencies to move them forward while others are only attainable through the deliberate allocation of new resources on a priority basis. Much work remains to achieve the goals described in this document.

Upcoming Dates of Note

January 2016

- Jan. 1 New Year's Day (State offices closed.)
- Jan. 13 CCAO Meeting in Jefferson City
- Jan. 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (State offices closed.)
- Jan. 27 Early College Advisory Board
- Jan. 29 MMPT Meeting in Jefferson City

February 2016

- Feb. 3-4 CBHE Meeting in Jefferson City
- Feb. 5 CCCR Meeting in Columbia, MO
- Feb. 12 Lincoln's Birthday (State offices closed.)
- Feb. 16 Washington's Birthday Observed (State offices closed.)
- Feb. 18 MMPT Meeting in Jefferson City
- Feb. 19 COTA Conference in Jefferson City
- Feb. 19 CCA Meeting in Jefferson City

March 2016

- Mar. 11 MMPT Meeting in Jefferson City