

ANNUAL REPORT 2021 OVERVIEW

The Missouri Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development (MDHEWD) works with the state's colleges and universities to help students achieve their education and career goals, and to increase the percentage of Missourians with degrees and certificates to provide a skilled and knowledgeable workforce.

Governor Mike Parson signed Executive Order 19-03 in January 2019 to move the Division of Workforce Development and the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center under the Department of Higher Education, with the transformation and new department name legally taking effect on Aug. 28, 2019.

In its first two years, MDHEWD faced unpredictable and unprecedented challenges such as casting vision for a new department, coming together as one entity, and navigating the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic led to temporary closures on college campuses and at Job Centers throughout Missouri. To meet this challenge, the department launched "COVID Office Hours" to meet with postsecondary institutions and health experts each week to cover topics such as quarantine, vaccination, closings, testing, etc. The department issued temporary guidance and policy changes regarding state financial aid programs to help students maintain eligibility. At the same time, the department broadened the virtual capabilities of Missouri's Job Centers, creating a call center, providing online employment services, and training programs to displaced workers as the centers steadily re-opened to in-person services.

During FY 2021, MDHEWD defined its department values - Accountability, Work-Life Balance, Teamwork, and Collaboration. The values were incorporated into all staff meetings and displayed in offices to help staff recognize their importance. In June 2021, the Coordinating Board for Higher Education officially kicked off the strategic planning process, defining principles and creating a new department mission statement. Strategic planning began with a data presentation focused on Missouri's status in regards to educational attainment and workforce participation, including a comparison to neighboring states. The strategic plan is set to be finalized by December 2021, complete with strategies and initiatives for implementation in 2022.

The Best Place to Work Steering Committee was formed in 2021, taking on the task to operationalize department values and implement new ideas to help the department create a culture of belonging. The group also focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion, and ways to help improve retention and engagement.



Access

- The department's Journey to College initiative provides assistance and information to more than 40,000 students at the high school and college levels. Students are able to learn about planning and paying for college through outreach events such as Apply Missouri, FAFSA Frenzy, and Decision Day.
- To help meet job seeker needs, the Office of Workforce Development offered virtual job fairs, and partnered with Coursera and CompTIA for online learning opportunities.

Affordability

- More than \$129 million in state financial aid was awarded to 64,266 Missouri students through nine grant and scholarship programs, including the A+ Scholarship, Fast Track, Access Missouri Grant, and Bright Flight.
- The Office of Postsecondary Policy hosted a virtual 2020 Equity in Missouri Higher Education conference in October. A new equity webinar series, Bridges to Success, was also launched in 2020. Experts from outside organizations and within the higher ed community presented each month on various ways higher education institutions could implement best practices to encourage affordability, equity, and success among students.

Completion

- Degrees when Due is a completion and equity initiative from the Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP) to help states and colleges increase degree attainment among the "some college, no degree" population. Missouri was selected to join 20 other states to learn best practices for engaging students who have stopped out. More than 75,000 Missourians have been identified as having at least two years of college credit, but no awarded degree. Ten Missouri institutions are in the Degrees When Due pilot, set to end its two-year project in October 2021. Those institutions include: Avila University, Central Methodist University, East Central College, Harris-Stowe State University, Jefferson College, Lincoln University, Moberly Area Community College, Northwest Missouri State University, Southeast Missouri State University, University of Central Missouri, University of Missouri-Kansas City, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Program Approval

- The department approved the addition of 192 new academic programs and the deletion or inactivation of 98 programs at Missouri's public colleges and universities. The department also reviewed 110 new academic programs, while deactivating or deleting 87 programs, offered by the state's independent institutions.

93,283 certificates & degrees were awarded by Missouri public and independent colleges and universities during the 2020-21 academic year.

318,486 students were enrolled at Missouri's public two- and four-year and independent colleges and universities in 2020-21.

MoExcels

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, proposed FY 2021 MoExcels funding by the Governor was not appropriated. However, 17 proposals totaling \$21.8 million recommended for funding in the FY 2021 budget were recommended by the Governor and approved by the General Assembly for funding in FY 2022. MoExcels funding was earmarked to facilitate development and expansion of employer-driven education and training programs and initiatives to substantially increase educational attainment.

Workforce Development

- The Office of Workforce Development (OWD) worked to connect displaced workers with employers throughout the state. A new initiative called Job Centers of the Future was formed to reevaluate the customer journey, identify improvements to the public workforce system, and to engage partners and customers in the process.

Apprenticeships & Work-Based Learning

- Missouri ranked second in the nation for completed apprenticeships for the second year in a row, and third for the number of active apprenticeships. The Office of Apprenticeship & Work-Based Learning hosted a virtual Apprenticeship Summit and continued to work toward its goal of having 20,000 completed apprenticeships by 2025.

Research and Data

- The Office of Performance & Strategy released important data to demonstrate Missouri's current economic situation, including monthly Jobs Reports, monthly Job Ad Comparisons, quarterly Real-Time Labor Market Summaries, the 2020 Economic Report and Business Survey, and many more.



Our Vision:

Every Missourian empowered with the skills and education needed for success.

Our Mission:

To put Missourians on a path to learn, work, and prosper.

Our Values:

Teamwork • Collaboration • Accountability • Work-Life Balance

Missouri's coordinated plan for higher education

The Coordinating Board for Higher Education is responsible for creating a coordinated plan for higher education in Missouri. *Preparing Missourians to Succeed: A Blueprint for Higher Education*, focuses on five goals:

Goal 1: Attainment

Missouri will increase the proportion of working-age adults with high-quality, affordable postsecondary credentials to 60 percent by 2025.

Goal 2: Affordability

Missouri will rank among the 10 most affordable states in which to obtain a postsecondary degree or certificate by 2025.

Goal 3: Quality

Missouri will produce graduates with high quality postsecondary degrees and certificates that are valuable and relevant to individuals, employers, communities and the state.

Goal 4: Research and innovation

Missouri will be a top 10 state for investment in academic research by 2025.

Goal 5: Investment, advocacy and partnerships

Missouri will promote greater investment in a culture of postsecondary education through increased advocacy and powerful partnerships with education, business, government and communities.

Read more about Missouri's Blueprint for Higher Education at dhewd.mo.gov/blueprint.php.



ATTAINMENT



AFFORDABILITY



QUALITY



RESEARCH & INNOVATION



INVESTMENT,
ADVOCACY &
PARTNERSHIPS

More information

Visit dhewd.mo.gov/about/annualreports.php for more information about:

- Student enrollment
- Student persistence
- State student financial aid
- Academic program actions
- Proprietary school certification
- Core budget recommendations

