BACKGROUND

The Missouri Community College Association (MCCA) was awarded a grant in late 2014 through the U.S. Department of Labor’s Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant program. While most of the $19.7 million MoSTEMWINs grant was earmarked to expand job training in STEM-related occupations (e.g. transportation, manufacturing, information technology, health services/health sciences, and science support), $5 million were earmarked for expanded data collection and reporting.

MCCA enlisted the Department of Economic Development's Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) as a sub-grantee to provide day-to-day support with project planning, vendor management, and stakeholder communications. MERIC, along with staff from MCCA, the MDHE, the Division of Workforce Development (DWD), the State Information Technology Services Division (ITSD), vendors, and a Data Advisory Committee comprised of institutional workforce and data staff have worked closely on major grant deliverables.

CURRENT STATUS

A major grant deliverable has been the development of a “Missouri Scorecard”, which would be a publicly available website that will combine a searchable program inventory with additional information on program costs, program student demographics, graduate outcomes (earnings and employment), and a program comparison function. The site will also allow users to search non-credit programs listed in the state’s Eligible Training Provider System (ETPS), and assist the Division of Workforce Development with outcomes reporting mandated by the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

Two build phases are complete, and the public-facing Scorecard website itself is largely functional and available to a limited number of users. A public release is targeted to late spring 2018, and the MoSTEMWINs grant concludes on September 30, 2018. Examples of search functionality and outcomes output will be shared at the March 8 CBHE meeting. A third build phase is currently focused on additional reporting capability for internal/institutional users, and agency and ITSD staff continue to verify calculations for completion rates, earnings/employment, and program costs.

The MoSTEMWINs grant also funded collection of non-credit student-level data for the first time. While the MDHE has collected enrollment and completion data regarding credit-bearing programs from public institutions for decades, no data were collected on short-term non-credit programs, many of which are heavily workforce-focused. Grant funds were used to build a secure collection system for these additional data, and the community colleges and State Technical College are now reporting non-credit activity in programs listed in ETPS. Collection began with the third quarter of 2016, and employment outcomes on the earliest completers should be available when the site is public. However, as this is a new collection system and wage information is looks one-to-three years out, it may be 2019 or later before many of the non-credit programs have enough data to present employment outcomes. Information on students in credit-bearing programs comes from existing data, so no additional student-level data were required. All student data are de-identified in the database behind the Scorecard, which also links student data to state wage records provided by the Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

NEXT STEPS

While the Scorecard might appear largely structurally complete and functional, much work remains prior to its public release. Refinements to wording and labels continue to ensure that users understand the data periods presented and its limitations. Wage record and continuing education data are currently available only within
Missouri, but work is underway to incorporate enrollment data from the National Student Clearinghouse, and the system is built to accommodate wage data from other states providing agreements can be reached.

MoSTEMWINs grant funds are also earmarked for work with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for enhancements to the Missouri Connections website, which provides career exploration tools to students and adult learners.

MDHE and other agency staff are working with ESP Solutions Group, the vendor that built and maintains the department's portal for the secure collection of student-level data, to build a collection for a program listing from postsecondary institutions. This upload would complement but not supersede MDHE’s existing program approval and proprietary certification processes, and will provide additional data on program-level costs and availability. These data will populate both the Scorecard and the MDHE’s re-designed College and Degree Search website.

In addition, MDHE staff continue to look toward greater engagement with four-year and independent institutions. The community colleges were awarded the MoSTEMWINs grant and have been the primary influencers of the Scorecard along with State Technical College, but MERIC and MDHE staff have also invited feedback over the past year from the four-year institutions and have incorporated suggested clarifications into outcomes reporting. A webinar is scheduled for March 13 for research staff at public and independent four-year institutions to re-engage and discuss next steps. MDHE staff envision approaching the independent institutions more systematically in the future regarding participation in the Scorecard. A user manual will also be developed toward the end of the grant to assist schools in navigating the steps to add and edit new programs and student information.

Finally, MDHE and other agency staff are beginning conversations about branding and messaging as the site is introduced to the public, and are also monitoring related legislation. Graduate outcomes are a continuing focus of legislators, and MDHE staff have reached out to ensure that proposed legislation intersects with work already done on the Scorecard, although additional modifications might be necessary if legislation passes and is signed by the Governor.

RECOMMENDATION

This is an information item only.

NO ATTACHMENTS