AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

AGENDA ITEM
Journey to College
Coordinating Board for Higher Education
December 14, 2017

DESCRIPTION
The purpose of this agenda item is to present information on 2017-2018 Missouri Department of Higher Education (MDHE) Journey to College outreach programs.

Background
Increasing postsecondary attainment is the first goal included in the Coordinating Board for Higher Education coordinated plan, Preparing Missourians to Succeed: A Blueprint for Higher Education. In order to move toward that goal, the plan calls for MDHE to “increase efforts to assist students in completing college admissions and financial aid applications.” Accordingly, MDHE encourages high schools to participate in Journey to College, which is an initiative that includes several MDHE access and success activities. The three major Journey to College programs are Apply Missouri, FAFSA Frenzy, and Decision Day.

Apply Missouri
During September and October, 133 high schools across Missouri hosted Apply Missouri programs. The programs assist seniors with the college application process during the school day. Participating sites are still submitting data, but with 65 percent of sites reporting, approximately 83 percent of participating seniors reported submitting at least admissions application during the program.

FAFSA Frenzy
FAFSA Frenzy events help students and their families complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). High schools, postsecondary institutions, and other community organizations can host FAFSA Frenzy events. The current year’s events began occurring in October and will continue through January. More than 180 sites are hosting FAFSA Frenzy events during the 2017-2018 academic year. To date, with about 63 percent of sites reporting, FAFSA Frenzy events have served approximately 2,180 students.

Decision Day
Decision Day celebrates seniors’ post-high school plans for college or military service. The purpose of the plan is to encourage seniors to finalize future plans and to build a college-going culture among younger students. The more than 130 high schools that have committed to participating in Decision Day will host events in April or May of 2018.

Around 100 high schools have committed to participate in all three programs, which is an 80 percent increase over the 2016-2017 program year.

STATUTORY REFERENCE
34 CFR 682.401(d) – College access initiative

RECOMMENDED ACTION
This is an information item only.

ATTACHMENT(S)
None