



# Preparing Missourians to Succeed

## A Blueprint for Higher Education

### A new coordinated plan for higher education

Missouri's future depends on an educated citizenry. The private and public benefits of higher education are the building blocks of a vibrant society, a thriving economy, and a good quality of life for all Missourians.

During the past decade, the state has made significant progress in increasing access to higher education. Educators and policymakers have expanded postsecondary education programs, kept tuition increases among the lowest in the nation, and adopted policies to help students complete a college degree.

More Missourians than ever before have earned a postsecondary credential; however, more must be done to provide all students with an opportunity to acquire the skills and knowledge they need for a rapidly changing world and workplace.

Missouri's Coordinating Board for Higher Education has adopted a new coordinated plan to strengthen the state's higher education system and focus on ways to increase the percentage of Missourians earning a high-quality two- or four-year degree or professional certificate.

The new plan, *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 increased investment in postsecondary education through increased advocacy and powerful partnerships with education, business, government and communities.

The new plan will guide the work of the Coordinating Board for Higher Education and the Department of Higher Education for the next five years.

For more information about *Preparing Missourians to Succeed: A Blueprint for Higher Education*, visit [www.dhe.mo.gov/blueprint/php](http://www.dhe.mo.gov/blueprint/php)