

## **Minutes of the Education Achievement Council Meeting**

**April 27, 2017**

**BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Education Achievement Council (EAC) met in the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning Board Room in Jackson, Mississippi at 2:00 p.m. on April 27, 2017.**

### **Council Members Present:**

Mr. Milton Anderson, President, Mississippi Association of Proprietary Schools  
Mr. Lee Bush, Chair, Mississippi Community College Board  
Dr. Jim Borsig, President, Mississippi University for Women, via teleconference  
Dr. Glenn Boyce, Commissioner, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning  
Dr. William Bynum, President, Mississippi Valley State University, via teleconference  
Dr. Kim Benton, representing Dr. Carey Wright, State Superintendent, Mississippi Department of Education  
Dr. Andrea Mayfield, Executive Director, Mississippi Community College Board, via teleconference  
Mr. C.D. Smith, Trustee, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning  
Mrs. Cheryl Thurmond, Board Member, Mississippi Community College Board

### **Council Members Absent:**

Mrs. Rosemary Aultman, President, Mississippi Board of Education  
Dr. Rodney Bennett, President, University of Southern Mississippi  
Chairman Eugene Clarke, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Mr. Chip Crane, Board Member, Mississippi Community College Board  
Mr. Tom Duff, Trustee, Institutions of Higher Learning  
Dr. Jim Haffey, President, Holmes Community College  
Dr. Harold Fisher, Executive Director, Mississippi Association of Independent Colleges and Universities  
Chairman Josh Harkins, Chairman, Senate Universities and Colleges Committee  
Dr. John Kelley, Chairman, Mississippi Board of Education  
Chairman Nolan Mettetal, Chairman, House of Representatives Universities and Colleges Committee  
Mr. Adam Moore, Mississippi Department of Mental Health  
Chairman John Moore, Chairman, House of Representatives Education Committee  
Dr. Jesse Smith, President, Jones County Junior College  
Dr. Laurie Smith, Education Policy Advisor, Office of Governor Phil Bryant  
Dr. Billy Stewart, President, East Central Community College  
Chairman Gray Tollison, Chairman, Senate Education Committee, via teleconference

## **Others Present:**

Mr. Eric Atchison, Director of System Analysis, Research, & Enrollment Management, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning

Mrs. Stephanie Bullock, Complete 2 Compete Project Coordinator, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning

Mr. Raul Fletes, Assistant Executive Director for Research and Effectiveness, Mississippi Community College Board

Ms. Kim Gallaspy, Director of Legislative Services, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning

Ms. Audra Kimble, Assistant Executive Director for eLearning & Institutional Technology, Mississippi Community College Board

Dr. Susan Lee, Associate Commissioner for Academic and Student Affairs, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning

Dr. Shawn Mackey, Deputy Executive Director for Programs and Accountability, Mississippi Community College Board

Ms. Jean Massey, Associate Superintendent, Mississippi Department of Education

Mr. James McHale, President & CEO, Woodward Hines Education Foundation

Mrs. Heather Morrison, P-20 Project Coordinator, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning

Mrs. Amber Palmer, Project Coordinator, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning

Mrs. Jennifer Rogers, Director, Office of Student Financial Aid

Dr. Casey Turnage, Director of Policy and Strategic Initiatives, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning

Ms. Shanell Watson, Associate Program Officer, Woodward Hines Education Foundation

## **I. Welcome**

Dr. Borsig welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

## **II. Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Borsig asked the members to review the minutes. Dr. Glenn Boyce moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Lee Bush seconded the motion. The motion carried.

## **III. Presentation on MI-BEST**

Dr. Borsig called on Dr. Gloria Mwase and Mr. Kenneth Wheatley to present on MI-BEST.

Mr. Wheatley discussed the purpose of the MI-BEST program, which is to address the problems around high school dropout and workforce development needs in the state of Mississippi. MI-BEST is a program started by the Mississippi Community College Board through a grant from W.K. Kellogg. It is an integrated basic education and skills training program modeled after the evidence-based program I-BEST in Washington.

All fifteen community colleges in the state of Mississippi are working together under this initiative. Under this integrated approach, while students are working to complete their basic education, they are also enrolled in career and technical courses. MI-BEST calls for the students to accomplish the following:

1. Obtain their high school equivalency
2. Complete the national CRC certificate at the silver level
3. Obtain at least 20 hours of employability skills
4. Complete at least 15 credit hours if they are pursuing a career in technical education.

MI-BEST and the Urban Institute of Washington, D.C. recently entered into a contract together to conduct a comprehensive program evaluation. Under this evaluation an implementation analysis, outcomes analysis and impact analysis will be performed.

Mr. Wheatley called on Dr. Mwase to give highlights from the data report. Dr. Mwase discussed that 38% of the students in the MI-BEST program are first generation college students. Over 4,000 CTE college credits have been earned by the students and over 1,000 credentials have been earned, of which most are industry-based certificates. Sixty students have decided to continue to pursue an Associate Degree.

Mr. Bush applauded the MI-BEST program and the work that has been accomplished thus far.

#### **IV. Update from Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Task Force**

Dr. Borsig explained that dual enrollment courses are college courses that must be delivered by college-qualified faculty, meaning the teachers must have 18 credit hours above the Bachelor's degree in the subject matter field. The most cost-effective way to deliver these classes is using high school teachers, however high school faculty who possess the qualifications to teach dual enrollment/dual credit courses are not evenly distributed across the state of Mississippi. In areas where qualified teachers are limited, the cost to provide these courses increases tremendously.

Accreditors have taken a much harder look at dual enrollment/dual credit to ensure the courses are college credits and delivered as such, and that students enrolled meet the same academic standards as a course that is delivered on a college campus. Accreditation is important because without it, federal financial aid is not available.

Dr. Andrea Mayfield commented about the recent budget cuts producing the issue of the community colleges being able to offer dual enrollment/dual credit courses at greatly reduced prices, as they have done in the past.

Dr. Borsig explained the purpose of the dual enrollment/dual credit manual is to put a process in place that everyone understands. This manual also provides ground rules and an effective and efficient process that will move more students through the dual enrollment/dual credit program.

Dr. William Bynum asked for clarity regarding the phrase “semester’s worth” in the manual. Dr. Casey Turnage responded that according to the community colleges, a semester’s worth is 15 hours and according to IHL, a semester’s worth is 12 hours. In the process of finalizing the manual, there will be more specificity and clarification regarding this.

Dr. Glenn Boyce followed up with Dr. Bynum’s question and asked if dual enrollment is designed for students to earn a semester’s worth of college credits and is dual credit designed for students to earn an unlimited number of college credits and the rationale behind why the programs are set up as such. Dr. Turnage commented that the setup of both programs should be just the opposite in that dual credit offers students the opportunity to earn an unlimited number of college credits and dual enrollment gives students the opportunity to earn a semester’s worth of college credits. Dr. Mayfield suggested that it be kept in mind that if the goal is to have students to graduate from high school and college simultaneously, parameters should be limited. In response, Dr. Boyce asked why students should be slowed down if they have the capability and resources to move as quickly as they can. In response to this discussion, Mrs. Morrison explained that upon final review of the manual, the taskforce will present a list of recommendations to the agency heads regarding the issue.

Dr. Boyce applauded the community colleges’ effort to keep the dual enrollment/dual credit program affordable.

#### **a. Update on Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Manual**

Dr. Borsig called on Heather Morrison to give an update on the Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Manual.

Mrs. Morrison discussed the four areas within dual enrollment: quality, transferability of credits, access across the state, and the removal of financial barriers. The manual contains best practices for the implementation of dual enrollment across the state of Mississippi.

#### **V. Update on FAFSA Completion Initiative**

Dr. Borsig called on Mrs. Morrison to discuss the update on the FAFSA Completion Initiative.

Mrs. Morrison explained that the FAFSA Completion Initiative is a joint project between MDE, MCCB, IHL and Get2College, which was discussed at the January 27 meeting. Mrs. Morrison introduced Mr. James McHale, president and CEO of Woodward Hines Education Foundation, who has partnered with the FAFSA Completion Initiative. Mr. McHale discussed that through a grant received from the Kresge Foundation a year ago, the FAFSA completion rate for Jackson Public Schools has increased from 42% to 53%.

Mrs. Morrison called on Mr. Eric Atchison to give an update on the online tool created to show live updates on FAFSA completion for high schools across the state of Mississippi.

Mr. Atchison explained the first tab of the online tool which shows that before Christmas 1 in 4 students completed FAFSA. To date that rate has increased to 48.7%. The second tab shows the number of high school students, the high school and community college districts they are a part of, and the geographic region they are in. Tab three shows a visual of the map of Mississippi that can be hovered and filtered to show information regarding FAFSA completion. The last tab provides a comparison of last year's numbers.

Ms. Jennifer Rogers discussed the behind the scenes piece of the FAFSA Completion online tool, which gives the Office of Student Financial Aid the ability to create customized individual high school reports that tells the number of students and the names of each student that has completed FAFSA. High school counselors can download these reports and use them to identify students who may need additional intervention. Training on how to further utilize the online tool will be provided to high school counselors this summer.

## **VI. Future Meeting Dates**

August 24

October 26

## **VII. Other Business**

Dr. Boyce commended the participation of MDE, MCCB and IHL on the P-20 collaboration.

## **VIII. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.