

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

# 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 year, MDHEWD faced unpredictable and unprecedented challenges; 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 assisted postsecondary institutions as they converted to virtual learning, distributed PPE, and spent CARES Act funding. 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.

## Access

- The department's Journey to College initiative provides assistance and information about planning and paying for college to more than 40,000 high school and college students through outreach events including Apply Missouri, FAFSA Frenzy, and Decision Day.
- In February 2020, Missouri expanded its Journey to College outreach to include elementary and middle school students. Twenty-two schools throughout the state participated in the Journey to College K-8 pilot program, which included a series of activities aimed to help students from kindergarten through eighth grade to start thinking about their future careers.
- A redesigned State Student Financial Aid Portal and Student Workspace were launched in the fall of 2019. The Financial Aid Portal allows students to submit digital applications for all of Missouri's state financial aid programs. The Student Workspace is a new tool to help students keep all of their materials in one place as they plan for college, pay for college, and finish their degree.

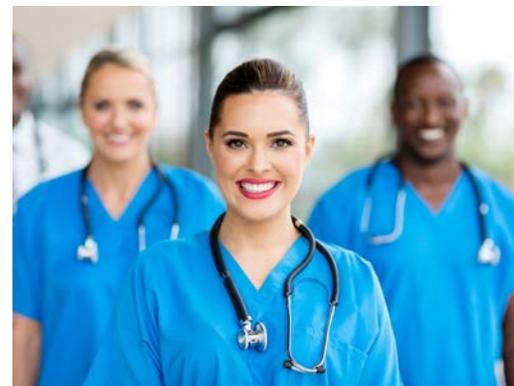
## Affordability

- More than \$134 million in state financial aid was awarded to 64,846 Missouri students through 10 grant and scholarship programs, including the A+ Scholarship, Access Missouri Grant, and Bright Flight.
- In 2019, the Missouri General Assembly passed Senate Bill 68 to create the Fast Track Workforce Incentive Grant, a new state financial aid program for adults age 25 or older, or adults under 25 who have been not been enrolled in education in at least two years. Fast Track launched in August 2019. The average award amount was \$2,189, and almost half of all recipients were first-generation college students.
- The Higher Education Core Transfer Curriculum (CORE 42) completed its third year with more than 2,400 courses for Fall 2020 that transfer as equivalent credit among all public colleges and universities. Logan

University signed on to participate during this academic year, bringing the total of partner independent institutions to five. The Core Curriculum Advisory Committee, comprised of faculty from all public two- and four-year institutions, along with participating independent institutions, is currently working on processes to help enhance and streamline the course review process. The CORE 42 improves course transfer, saving students time and money as they work toward a degree.

## Completion

- Institutions participating in the Guided Pathways to Success pilot were asked to identify elements that would help students have a clear path to credential completion, provide a timetable and milestones for the work, and agree to engage with the department as the program was developed and implemented. Among the components being implemented at the five participating institutions were early student assessments, degree maps, intrusive advising, meta-major plans, degree-based pathways with top transfer schools, targeted college seminars, and marketing and communications plans. There were four institutions participating in the pilot: Metropolitan Community College, North Central Missouri College, Southeast Missouri State University, and University of Missouri-Kansas City.
- The Concurrent Enrollment Pilot worked to provide students with a broader range of academic and student support services while streamlining the path to degree completion, by allowing students who meet admissions requirements to be enrolled at both a two-year and four-year institution. The partnering institutions in this pilot included shared services such as applications, enrollment, advising, academic support services, student activities, campus facilities, student success services, financial assistance, and technology. The institutions also agreed to provide periodic updates for MDHEWD staff and to remain engaged with the department as the program was developed and implemented. The Concurrent Enrollment Pilot Program include the following partnerships: Missouri University of Science & Technology and East Central College; Northwest Missouri State University and Metropolitan Community College; and Southeast Missouri State University, Jefferson College and Three Rivers College.
- Missouri's remedial education rates continue to decrease as institutions continue to implement best practices in remedial education, including using multiple measures for placement and credit-bearing corequisite courses. The percentage of recent high school graduates enrolling in remedial courses dropped from 28.2 percent in 2014 to 19.8 percent in 2019. Both enrollment and passing rates in corequisite courses have improved in recent years throughout the state. The percentage of students enrolled in a corequisite remediation who passed their gateway math course with a C or better almost doubled from 2014 to 2018, from 37.9 percent to 75.1 percent.



**338,496 students**  
were enrolled at Missouri's public two-  
and four-year and independent colleges  
and universities in 2019.

**93,283 certificates and degrees**  
were awarded by Missouri public and independent  
colleges and universities during the 2019-20  
academic year.

## Program Approval

- The department approved the addition of 236 new academic programs and the deletion or inactivation of 128 programs at Missouri's public colleges and universities. The department also reviewed 97 new academic programs, while deactivating or deleting 41 programs, offered by the state's independent institutions.

## MoExcels

- The General Assembly appropriated \$18.3 million for workforce initiatives designed to target state and regional workforce needs. MoExcels funding was earmarked to facilitate development and expansion of employer-driven education and training programs and initiatives to substantially increase educational attainment. 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 2019 Economic Report and Business Survey, and many more.

## Equity in Higher Education

- The Office of Postsecondary Policy worked with partners and stakeholders throughout the state to host the first Equity in Missouri Higher Education Summit in October 2019. In conjunction with the summit, the department released its first Equity in Missouri Higher Education Report, focused on student access and progress. Equity work continued through the fiscal year to include plans for a fall 2020 event and report.

## Workforce Development

- The Office of Workforce Development (OWD) worked to connect displaced workers with employers throughout the state. In November 2019, Gov. Mike Parson signed Executive Order 19-20 to establish the Office of Apprenticeship & Work-Based Learning within OWD. The new apprenticeship office consists of five state agency leaders who work together to develop talent pipelines, policies, and procedures to modernize, sustain, and expand apprenticeships in Missouri. Missouri ranked second in the nation for completed apprenticeships, and third for the number of active apprenticeships. In response to challenges created by COVID-19, the department launched its Return Strong campaign in May 2020. OWD staff served as a valuable resource to help Missourians skill up and get back to work.

## 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 2019 Economic Report and Business Survey, and many more.



## Our Vission:

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

# 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](http://dhewd.mo.gov/blueprint.php).*



ATTAINMENT



AFFORDABILITY



QUALITY



RESEARCH & INNOVATION



INVESTMENT,  
ADVOCACY &  
PARTNERSHIPS

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## More information

Visit [dhewd.mo.gov/about/annualreports.php](http://dhewd.mo.gov/about/annualreports.php) for more information about:

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

