



## Tab 5 New Department Vision

Coordinating Board for Higher Education  
June 5, 2019

### BACKGROUND

Governor Mike Parson's [Executive Order 19-03](#) brings the state agencies responsible for higher education, workforce development, and economic research together into a single department. The mission and vision of this new department will be significantly different from that of the three existing organizations, each of which has a distinct set of responsibilities:

- The [Department of Higher Education](#) is working toward a big goal of helping 60% of working-age Missourians hold a high-value degree or certificate by 2025. DHE works with public and private institutions to increase graduation rates, administers student financial aid programs, and [promotes college-going](#) to high school students, parents, and school counselors. The department makes funding recommendations for public colleges and universities and student financial aid programs, and collects and distributes data – primarily based on IPEDS and information collected from institutions. The department makes decisions about the academic programs offered by public colleges and universities and determines whether those institutions can establish new campuses or off-site locations. About 55 people work for DHE, the vast majority of whom work in Jefferson City.
- The [Division of Workforce Development](#), which currently reports to the director of the Department of Economic Development, focuses on the outcome areas of credential attainment, entered employment, sustained employment, and median earnings to support increased productivity in Missouri's workforce. DWD works with the State Workforce Development Board and local workforce development boards throughout the state to distribute federal job training funds and ensures that those funds are administered in compliance with state and federal laws. DWD also operates 31 "one-stop" [job centers](#) that provide services to job-seekers and has special programs that focus on apprenticeships, veterans, and credentialing. About 300 people work for DWD, 200 of whom work at job centers around the state and the rest of whom work in Jefferson City.
- The [Missouri Economic Research and Information Center](#) (MERIC), which currently reports to the director of the Department of Economic Development's Business and Community Services Division, provides information on economic indicators such as cost of living, average wages, and local employment dynamics; industry employment and wages; demographics; and workforce projections. These analyses are performed at the state and regional levels. About 20 people work for MERIC, all of whom work in Jefferson City.

Commissioner of Higher Education Zora Mulligan identified the critical importance of developing a vision to bring the work of these three very different organizations together and engaged a team of consultants to work with stakeholders to develop this new vision. The consultants conducted preliminary meetings and an online survey of a wide array of stakeholders, including staff, partners, and external organizations. Based on information received through the survey, the consultants developed a focus group question guide and conducted focus groups with over 100 stakeholders. Feedback from the meetings, survey, and focus groups will be used to develop a report and recommendations.

### CURRENT STATUS

The consultants will present their report and recommendations at the June 4 work session and June 5 Presidential Advisory Committee meeting.

**NEXT STEPS**

Following adoption of a vision statement, department staff will develop a logo and updated branding for the board to consider at its July 30-31 retreat.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommend that the board receive and consider adopting the consultants' recommendations.

**NO ATTACHMENTS**