

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

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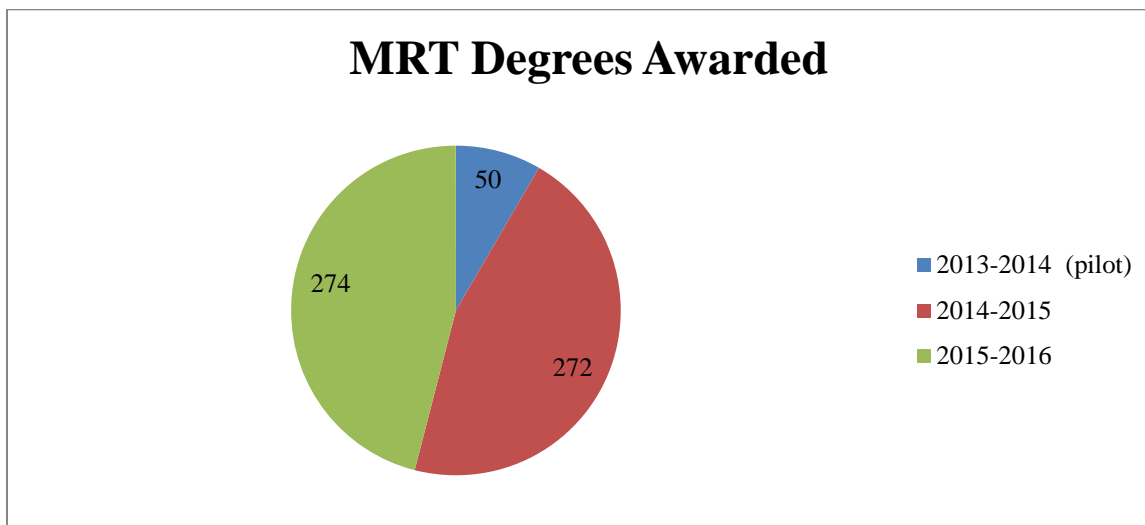
Update on Missouri Reverse Transfer
Coordinating Board for Higher Education
December 15, 2016

DESCRIPTION

During the past four years, the Missouri Department of Higher Education has completed, in collaboration with representatives from both the public and private higher educational sectors, a three-phase statewide implementation of Missouri Reverse Transfer (MRT). The MRT Program offers students who have completed at least 15 credit hours at a qualifying two-year college and transferred to a four-year college or university in Missouri the ability to transfer credit back to the two-year college to earn an associate degree. While Phase I and II focused on development and statewide implementation, Phase III focused on reaching back to students not currently enrolled at a participating institution and the sustainability of the MRT. This item reports on the progress of MRT and the future of MRT.

Degree Completion

The Missouri Reverse Transfer Program has awarded a total of 596 associate degrees. In the 2013-2014 pilot year, 11 high-volume transfer institutions awarded 50 degrees. Full implementation began in the fall of 2014 with 42 Missouri institutions participating. In the 2014-2015 school year, 272 degrees were awarded through MRT, and institutions focused on contacting currently enrolled students. In the 2015-2016 school year, 274 degrees were awarded through MRT, and institutions began on reaching back to students not currently enrolled and on contacting currently enrolled students.



Sustainability

Sustaining the MRT program is now the focus. MDHE and COTA, which assumed responsibility for MRT from the twenty-member MRT Steering Committee, will continue to develop plans to sustain MRT. Sustainability is especially critical because the “Credit When It’s Due” grant, which nurtured the program in its first two years, ended in 2015.

Sustainability efforts thus far have focused on professional development for reverse transfer coordinators. COTA hosted a Reverse Transfer Coordinator training session in February 2016 in Jefferson City, with more than 40 reverse transfer coordinators and supporting staff from across the state attending. COTA will hold a similar training session in February 2017. Additional training sessions will be held regularly to keep the initiative vibrant. Training videos for new MRT coordinators have been posted on the MDHE website to provide information for reverse transfer coordinators.

The Future of Missouri Reverse Transfer: On a National Scale

Another notable achievement of MRT was the invitation to participate in the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) Reverse Transfer Project, which seeks to provide a national, automated solution for exchange of student record data throughout the nation. Missouri was one of three states (with Texas and Wisconsin) invited to participate in this innovative project. The COTA committee and members of the NSC Pilot Project will determine what steps to take in the National Reverse Transfer Project in the upcoming year. The benefit of the student being able to transfer credits across state lines will result in more associate degrees and enhance the employment opportunities of Missourians. The main challenge is to determine if institutions will switch to the NSC process or build onto the current MRT process. Many institutions are struggling to maintain the resources for MRT, and the added responsibility of the National Reverse Transfer project will cause additional strain for institutions. National Reverse Transfer is a benefit to Missouri students, but overcoming the obstacle of institutions’ limited resources is difficult. COTA will be focusing on this issue as well as the sustainability of MRT in the upcoming year.

STATUTORY REFERENCE

Section 173.005.2(6), RSMo – Responsibilities of the Coordinating Board

RECOMMENDED ACTION

This is an information item only.

ATTACHMENT(S)

None