



Tab 11 Equity Report Update

Coordinating Board for Higher Education
September 11, 2019

BACKGROUND

In an effort to meet the “Big Goal” of having 60 percent of Missourians hold a high-quality postsecondary credential by 2025, the Missouri Department of Higher Education has launched a multi-year effort to identify equity gaps in educational attainment and develop policy recommendations to address those gaps. This agenda aligns to goal 1.5 in *The Blueprint for Higher Education*, which commits the state to reduce inequities in higher education by race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, and disability, in addition to creating a postsecondary faculty that proportionately reflects the diversity and demographic makeup of the state.

The purpose of the report, and the corresponding Equity Summit, is not only to identify equity gaps, but to gather experts in the field and stakeholders to work to identify and implement strategies to overcome these disparities.

CURRENT STATUS

MDHE staff have analyzed data from the Enhanced Missouri Student Achievement Study (EMSAS) files to identify equity gaps across various metrics. A draft of the report has been provided to members of Equity Summit Planning Committee. While the overall undergraduate enrollment closely matches the state demographic profile, there are disparities in race/ethnicity, age, parental education levels, and income level in regards to sector and selectivity of enrollment, placement in remedial education, enrollment in programs of study, and retention.

In addition to these data, MDHE staff have conducted interviews to include in the equity report. These interviews included representatives and administrators at public postsecondary institutions, experts in equity and diversity, business leaders, and students. These qualitative pieces compliment the quantitative analyses by providing context in the way that current disparities impact actual students. Further, promising strategies, programs, and resources have been identified as ways to close equity gaps.

The report will be released at the Equity in Missouri Higher Education Summit on Wednesday, October 30 at the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia. The summit is free and open to the public, and representatives from higher education, businesses, community organizations, and other stakeholders are encouraged to attend. An invitation-only pre-conference workshop and dinner will take place on Tuesday, October 29 and will provide a forum to develop recommendations for future work on equity in higher education issues. Further information and registration materials are available on the Missouri Department of Higher Education’s website.

NEXT STEPS

MDHE staff will continue to work on finalizing the first phase of the Equity Report, as well as outline the agenda for the Equity Summit in October.

RECOMMENDATION

This is an information item only.

NO ATTACHMENTS