



Tennessee Board of Regents

Strategic Plan 2015 – 2025

Key Priorities

ACCESS

To fulfill its mission of service and outreach to all Tennesseans, the Tennessee Board of Regents System strives to increase the number and diversity of students it serves. The TBR System will broaden opportunities for those who wish to develop their professional skills, enrich their lives and engage in the workforce of the future. It will engage those who have been historically underrepresented and underserved in their pursuit of post-secondary credentials at all levels. The TBR System will seek to ensure that every prospective student has the opportunity to enroll in its universities, community colleges or colleges of applied technology.

To meet the capacity requirements of this growing number of award-seeking students, TBR institutions will optimize gateways to higher learning through the effective use of technology, the promotion of learning partnerships within TBR and across the state, and the development of campus sites.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Increasing the number of citizens with diplomas, certificates, and degrees is a critical focus area for the TBR System and the state. Fostering student persistence to completion enhances the growth of existing businesses, the ability to attract high paying industries, the enrichment of strong communities and the future quality of life for each student. The TBR System will structure credential and degree programs so that students may successfully graduate in a timely and cost-effective manner. TBR will build and nurture partnerships with Tennessee secondary schools to enhance student preparedness and early college credit opportunities. The TBR System will focus on student persistence through intrusive personal advisement and technology-based architected choice systems that lead to an experience of community and inclusion. Undergraduate and graduate students will be provided with guided research and real world learning opportunities. By aligning degree pathways within and between TBR institutions as well as awarding credit for life experience, the time to degree will be accelerated for all learners, especially returning students and those seeking advanced degrees. To further foster student success, the TBR System will explore, develop and apply new technologies and technology-based delivery methods to enhance teaching, research, service and student achievement.

QUALITY

To achieve excellence in all areas of our collective mission, the TBR System must provide high quality academic programs, faculty, services and facilities at all levels. The TBR System will sustain academic rigor and be committed to continuous quality improvement processes to help students acquire and retain the knowledge, skills and abilities they need to become creative employees, dynamic leaders and conscientious citizens. Recognizing the quality expectations of a global marketplace and society, TBR System institutions, their faculty and their students will cultivate forward-looking research, explore creative expression in the arts and engage in public service activities that aspire to world-class standards.

The quality of academic programs will be measured by student performance and assessment as well as accreditation and formal review procedures. Quality assurance will be sustained through ongoing professional growth opportunities, integrated institutional effectiveness activities, and regular satisfaction responses from TBR graduates and employers. Together these processes will promote initiatives for continuous quality improvement of learning objectives, teaching and assessment of student achievement.

RESOURCEFULNESS & EFFICIENCY

The Tennessee Board of Regents Systems seeks to achieve its mission through innovation and judicious use of resources. The Tennessee state government has placed higher education in the spotlight through the Complete College Tennessee Act, the TNPromise Act and the governor's Drive to 55 agenda. The TBR seeks to elevate the priority of higher education so that there will be full support of the funding formula and increases in state appropriations. TBR institutions will seek to identify alternate revenue enhancements and efficiently use their resources in order to sustain quality and provide access for a growing number of students.

The TBR System and its institutions are committed to continuously identifying additional financial resources through alumni giving, endowments, foundations and private fund-raising. Other external sources such as federal, state, and local governments plus business and community partnerships will also be targeted to provide further financial support for operations, research, equipment and construction.

Priority Strategies such as the community college statewide marketing effort, the community college business process model, the TCAT capacity project and the systemwide common data repository initiative all promote cost-effectiveness and proficiency. As such, the TBR System is dedicated to improving operational efficiencies such as those, which are key elements of its completion initiative.