

TICUA Policy Update

March 25, 2010

TICUA Asked to Serve on THEC Master Plan Committee

TICUA President Claude Pressnell has been invited to serve on the Master Plan Steering Committee for the state's 2010-2015 plan for higher education. The plan will respond to the provisions of the recent Complete College Tennessee Act of 2010. According to the THEC Executive Director Richard Rhoda, the charge of the Committee is to craft a plan that focuses in large part on the following provisions:

- (1) Addressing the state's economic development, workforce development and research needs
- (2) Ensuring increased degree production within the state's capacity to support higher education
- (3) Using institutional mission differentiation to realize statewide efficiencies through institutional collaboration and minimized redundancy in degree offerings, instructional locations and competitive research

The Steering Committee will work with three committees as it makes its recommendations for the goals and measures of the Master Plan and the strategies for achieving desired outcomes. These three committees are the Formula Review Committee, the Performance Funding Program Advisory Committee, and the Academic Affairs Committee. Pressnell will also serve on the Academic Affairs Committee which will grapple with articulation and transfer of credit issues. Additionally, the Steering Committee will hear the findings of an advisory committee on Increasing Adult Participation in higher education.

Leadership Considers a Lottery Study Group

Senators Dolores Gresham and Randy McNally have sent a letter to Senate Speaker Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey requesting a lottery scholarship study group to examine the structure of program in light of the revenue shortfall. The letter recommends that the group be comprised of the both the House and Senate Education and Finance, Ways, and Means Committee Chairs, as well as representatives from TICUA, UT, TBR, and THEC/TSAC. It is expected that a similar letter will be sent to the House leadership.

The goal of the group will be to make recommendations on how to better align the scholarship program expenditures with the revenue projections. The current scholarship program is expected to have a \$13 million shortfall for 2009-10 and a possible \$30-40 million deficit by 2010-11. It is not known at this point when the group will be formed to begin their work.