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Maryland Higher Education Commission Fiscal 2020 Budget

**Testimony of Dr. James D. Fielder, Jr., Secretary of Higher Education,
to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education and Economic Development and
the Senate Budget and Taxation Subcommittee on Education, Business and Administration**

February 14 & 15, 2019

Recommended Actions – pgs. 2 & 28

1. Adopt the following narrative:

Report on Best Practices and Annual Progress Toward the 55% Completion Goal:

The budget committees understand that, in order to meet the State’s goal to have at least 55% of Maryland’s residents age 25 to 64 holding at least one degree credential by 2025, accurate and timely information on degree progression and best practices is needed to ensure that the State is on track to meet the goal. The budget committees request that the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) annually collect and analyze student- and transcript-level data on progression, graduation, and other relevant metrics from each public institution of higher education, including community colleges and regional higher education centers. MHEC should submit a report by December 15 each year that analyzes the data and shows each institution’s progress toward the State and institutional goals in 2025. The report should also include a summary of best practices and findings on the effectiveness of institutions’ programs as well as any concerns regarding lack of progress or best practices that are not being implemented by institutions.

In addition, the budget committees request that MHEC, in collaboration with the Governor’s Prekindergarten-20 Council, convene a biennial Summit on Completion that provides a forum for representatives of all segments of education (including K-12), economic and workforce development, and other stakeholders to share best practices on college completion that are underway in Maryland and hear from experts on best practices in other states that may be replicated in Maryland. A summary of the summit should be included in the annual report on best practices and progress toward the 55% goal.

Information Request

Report on best practices
and annual progress
toward the 55% completion
goal

Author

MHEC

Due Date

December 15, 2019

MHEC response: MHEC concurs with the Recommended Action.

MHEC will be holding a Completion Summit on April 25, 2019. This will be the fourth Completion Summit that MHEC has held over the past 6 years.