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Governor

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Cassie Motz  
Chair

Sanjay Rai, Ph.D.  
Secretary

Date: June 10, 2024  
To: Segmental Advisory Council  
From: Sanjay Rai, Ph.D., Secretary *SUR*  
Subject: 2024 Report on Best Practices and Annual Progress toward the 55% Completion Goal

Please circulate this memo to appropriate campus personnel. Note that all Maryland post-secondary institutions must submit a report this reporting year.

Since 2012, the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) has produced an annual report documenting best practices and progress toward the State's 2025 completion goal. These reports appear on the MHEC website at <http://www.mhec.state.md.us/publications/Pages/research/index.aspx> under Student and Academic Affairs.

For the 2024 report, MHEC seeks to focus on institutions' efforts to support the Moore-Miller Administration 2024 State Plan's Goal "Setting up Maryland Students for Success" (see <https://governor.maryland.gov/priorities/Documents/2024%20State%20Plan.pdf> for Plan; pp 11-13). Specifically, MHEC seeks to focus on Objective 2.4: *Provide more resources for student success by strengthening wraparound and mental health services through community schools, establishing workgroups on multilingual learners, improving students' access to state financial aid, and increasing funding for special education, financial assistance, and other evidence-based support.*

Therefore, institutions should report on the following (respond to all three prompts):

- 1) Identify at least three initiatives the institution has in place or will be developing to support (a) student mental health, (b) multilingual learners and/or (c) students' access to financial aid, and,
- 2) Of those initiatives, describe how and what evidence-based practices inform the initiatives' efforts.
- 3) Describe how the institution is tracking the impact of those initiatives on retention and completion (and any other relevant outcomes) and a brief description of relevant analyses.

In addition, each institution is invited to review and comment on the degree targets MHEC has established for the institution, as indicated in the 2023 report that can be found here: [https://mhec.maryland.gov/publications/Documents/Dashboards/p%20195\\_196%20Report%20on%20Best%20Practices%20and%20Progress%20Toward%2055%25%20Goal.pdf](https://mhec.maryland.gov/publications/Documents/Dashboards/p%20195_196%20Report%20on%20Best%20Practices%20and%20Progress%20Toward%2055%25%20Goal.pdf)

Unlike in previous years, this year **all institutions are expected to submit a report.**

Institutional narrative reports should not to exceed four printed pages or approximately 1,500 words. Reports are due no later than Friday September 20, 2024. Institutions must use the link provided to upload the report materials to the Google form [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScY4utRUG9uyMyYKts1YkPf3oVtXBbPXTb\\_mjMrtpAXh0Wvg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScY4utRUG9uyMyYKts1YkPf3oVtXBbPXTb_mjMrtpAXh0Wvg/viewform?usp=sf_link). Any comments on the degree target may be included in the report as an appendix to the report submission.

If you have any further questions about the report or the institutional targets, please feel free to contact Dr. Schmertz, Director of Research and Policy Analysis, directly ([barbara.schmertz@maryland.gov](mailto:barbara.schmertz@maryland.gov)). Thank you for your continued cooperation.