MLDS Center
Maryland Longitudinal Data System

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MEMORANDUM

TO: MLDS Governing Board

FROM: Ross Goldstein, Executive Director
Angela Henneberger, Research Branch Director and Assistant Research Professor,
University of Maryland School of Social Work

DATE: December 3, 2021

SUBJECT: External Researcher and Grant Funded Projects

Purpose
The purpose of this agenda item is to update the Governing Board on External Research Applications submitted to the MLDS Center under the Policies and Procedures for External Researcher and Grant Funded Projects.

Project 1 - Dr. Megean Garvin submitted an application for approval entitled: *Researching Early Access to Computing and Higher Education (REACH): Understanding CS pathways with a focus on Black women*

Project Abstract
The Researching Early Access to Computing and Higher Education (REACH) research project is designed to investigate the relationship between students' computing experiences in K-12 and higher education within a framework to assess equity across multiple aspects of education. Using statewide education data, the project will conduct a longitudinal analysis that examines students and their computing experiences across years, from 6th grade to college. This analysis will help identify which K-12 course taking patterns lead to more participation in computing in higher education and how these relationships differ for distinct groups of students with a specific focus on black women. This project will help us determine which barriers persist within computing education pathways and can inform state education policy to improve equity.

Grant Funding
Dr. Garvin applied for a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) in the amount of $500,000.

Researchers
Dr. Megean Garvin, Maryland Center for Computing Education, University of Maryland Baltimore County
Dr. Jayce Warner, Research Associate at the Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC), University of Texas at Austin

No Action Necessary - Expedited Review Process
This external research application falls under the expedited review process. Dr. Garvin has experience working with MLDS, and this project will provide funding to directly advance the MLDS Center's research agenda. Additionally, the project benefits the State by examining computing equity, a topic of high priority to the State. NSF is an approved funding source in the external research procedures. The Research and Policy Advisory Board gave a positive recommendation on this proposal.

Project 2 - The MLDS Center has provided conditional support for a collaborative proposal submitted by members of the Eastern States Longitudinal Data Collaborative to the Coleridge Initiative's *Democratizing our Data: A Challenge to Invest in Data and Evidence-based Policy*. The proposal is being led by the John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at Rutgers University. The focus of the project is to develop dashboards that replicate the multi-state dashboards developed by KYStats (Kentucky's longitudinal data system). KYStats successfully developed a multi-state postsecondary dashboard that uses linked data from Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, and Tennessee. The dashboards, which are one of the first to combine workforce data on recent college graduates from contiguous states, are a powerful resource to provide a more complete picture of higher education outcomes in those states; especially as it relates to particular credentials and programs of study. This allows those states to build on evidence-based policies to improve outcomes for their college graduates.

The MLDS Center currently lacks the capacity to analyze the education and employment outcomes of graduates who leave the state. This is a particular concern given the number of neighboring states that surround Maryland. This project, which seeks to leverage the work Kentucky has already completed, will explore options for creating a similar set of dashboards for the contiguous states in the northeast corridor, with a particular focus on the critical knowledge gaps in our region.

The MLDS Center intends to support this initiative by participating in the preparation of the full proposal, the development of common identifiers, variables and definitions; and exploring solutions for participation, in a manner consistent with Maryland legal and stakeholder requirements.