

Monthly Report for May 2016

Submitted June 3, 2016

Meetings

P20W Council - MLDS Workgroup

Ross Goldstein, Angela Henneberger, Laia Tiderman and Tejal Cherry met with several members of the P20W Council's MLDS Workgroup. The meeting provided the members of the workgroup an opportunity to gain a more in depth understanding of the MLDS data and research capabilities. The workgroup group discussed the role the P20W council can play in helping to develop the research agenda. There was considerable interest in gaps in data or legal restrictions that may impact the research capabilities (such as the requirement to de-link workforce data from a student record five years after the student's last enrollment in a Maryland educational institution). The workgroup requested that staff provide an in depth memorandum analyzing the data gaps and legal restrictions to provide to the workgroup for further analysis and discussion.

Governor's Office of Performance Improvement

Staff also met with Luis Luna, Director of the Governor's Office of Performance Improvement (GOPI). Mr. Luna explained the role of GOPI and its use of the State's Open Data Portal to collect data from state agencies to help measure performance. Mr. Luna is considering collecting data from the Center for some of the education performance measures.

MSDE Data Summit

Center staff are preparing for the first 2016 MSDE Data Summit, June 16-17, 2016 at Turf Valley. The 2016 MSDE Data Summit is a collaboration between the [Maryland State Department of Education \(MSDE\)](#) and [Regional Educational Laboratory \(REL\) Mid-Atlantic](#). The Data Summit aims to connect education professionals from across Maryland to share implementation experiences, latest research and local initiatives that lead to positive student outcomes. More information on the 2016 MSDE Data Summit can be found on the [event website](#).

Five Center staff will be presenting on behalf of the MLDSC:

- Laia Tiderman, *"Get to know the Maryland Longitudinal Data System"*
- Mathew Uretsky, *"The Correlates and Consequences of On-Time Graduation"*
- Susan Klumpner, *"Workforce Outcomes in Maryland: Patterns among Students who earn a High School Diploma, Certificate of Completion, GED, and High School Non-Completers"*
- Xiaying Zheng, *"Characteristics and Employment Outcomes of Post-secondary STEM graduates in Maryland"*
- Angela Henneberger, *"High School Predictors of Needing Remedial Coursework in College"*

Dashboards

Center staff continue to work on a dashboard responsive to Research Agenda Question #20: What are the workforce outcomes of Maryland high school non-completers? The dashboard follows cohorts of students who began 9th grade in the same academic year. The dashboards will focus on the location of these students in the workforce. Each of the dashboards will allow the user to compare workforce data for high school graduates, high school dropouts, and high school persisters. This dashboard complements the work currently in progress by the Research Branch.

Research

The research team has worked with the MLDSC Executive Director and the Assistant Attorney General to finalize the suppression for the early childcare and education workforce report. This report has been submitted to the Executive Director for submission to MSDE in fulfillment of the 2012 SLDS Grant.

James Zheng, Center Fellow, and Michael Woolley, Research Team member, presented for the May research series on the STEM workforce analysis. The STEM workforce report is in the final stages of preparation for submission. Analyses continue on the remedial education report and the high school non-completers to workforce report. Additionally, Mathew Uretsky, Center Fellow, is working in collaboration with other research team members to turn his dissertation into a brief policy report on the postsecondary and workforce outcomes for high school "persisters," students who attend high school for four or more years but do not earn diplomas. Angela Henneberger, Research Director, met with stakeholders from the University System of Maryland to discuss research and reporting on teacher preparation and entry into the workforce.

Data requests

The Center received two requests for aggregate data sets. One request was from the Chancellor of the University System of Maryland and the Maryland Secretary of Commerce and the other was from the institutional research department at Towson University. Both data requests focused on the workforce outcomes for bachelor degree recipients. Specifically, the requests wanted the degree recipients broken out by course of study (CIP code) and then what percentage are working in Maryland, what are their annualized wages, and what industries are they working in.

System Management

1. Staff will be testing the change over to a separate MLDS domain from the centralized domain with MSDE.
2. All of the Center's Oracle products have been upgraded and patched with latest versions. Staff are working on aggregating audit logs to conform to the requirements of the Data Security and Safeguarding Plan.
3. Staff continue to work with DoIT and Skyline on their firewall service solution and is moving forward with the project. DoIT has informed the Center that it is scheduled to be transferred over to the managed firewall hosting service in July.
4. The Center is now doing its offsite backup using the Amazon cloud services (AWS). Staff are in process of testing restoring operations from the backup data. Staff are also having discussion with DoIT for their future plans for an enterprise solution for offsite backup.

5. Staff will be working on testing the migration from Oracle Warehouse Builder (OWB) to Oracle Data Integrator (ODI). Oracle is discontinuing support on OWB and has provided ODI as its go forward data management tool.

Independent IT Security Audit

The Center has begun the voluntary independent IT Security Audit through DoIT. The auditors have performed two site visits over the past month. MLDS Center IT & Systems staff have had multiple phone meetings with the auditors regarding the Center's network and data systems. The current project plan indicates the vulnerability testing to be completed by end of July.

Representatives for the vendor performing the independent IT security audit through DoIT will speak at the June Governing Board meeting to provide an overview of the audit tasks, the current status, and the types of findings and information that will result from the audit.

Data Model

Working in collaboration with the Research Branch, the IT & Systems staff have developed a more streamlined data model. The original system architecture was developed prior to the collection and loading of data from the MLDS partner agencies. As staff work with the data it became apparent that there were inefficiencies in the data model. The redesigned data model is more streamlined and eliminates unused and unnecessary tables. This new model will make data loading and reporting easier for the Systems, Data, and Research staff. IT & Systems staff are finalizing a project plan to transfer data into the new model.

Data Loading

MSDE - The Center has received and completed loading all high school and college placement assessments and will begin loading data from the Student-Course-Grade-Teacher (SCGT) File.

MHEC – Staff is waiting to receive 2015 Financial Aid Information System (FAIS) data and the 2015 EOTS (End of Term) data files. Staff is also discussing the status of the upcoming additional data files with MHEC, including:

- a. Course Information System (CIS)
- b. Student Registration System (SRS)
- c. Employee Data System (EDS)
- d. Transfer Student System (TSS).

DLLR – Staff has received and will be loading 2015 – 4th quarter data files from DLLR for LACES, NEDP, UI Claimants, Wage, UI Tax, and GED.

Website

Staff is working on a new dashboard organization on the website. The current design had a landing page for each set of dashboards that provided an explanation about the dashboard and included any caveats and important information for understanding the dashboard and its limitations. From that page, the user clicks on a link for the actual data. Staff received feedback that separating the explanatory information from the

tables and graphs would be problematic because if a user printed the table and graph, he or she would not have the explanatory information on the page. Accordingly, the redesign addresses that problem by removing the landing page and placing all of the of the explanatory information on the same page with the table and graph. MLDSC Staff will present the reorganized dashboard layout at the June Governing Board Meeting.

Goodbye and Thanks

Peter Hobbs, the Reporting Services Director and Maryland Higher Education Commission Liaison, left the MLDS Center this week for another job closer to home. Peter's work on developing dashboards and serving as a subject matter expert will be missed, but we wish him much success with his new job. Filling this vacancy is MHEC's responsibility and they are already taking steps to begin the recruitment and hiring process.