MLDS CENTER
Maryland Longitudinal Data System

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Monthly Report for October 2016
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Meetings

Plain English Writing Seminar

On October 5th, Dave Pantzer, the Web Content Coordinator for the People's Law Library of Maryland, conducted his workshop on Plain English Writing at MSDE. Several MLDS Center staff members attended the workshop to learn strategies for conveying complex topics to a variety of audiences. Specifically, the workshop provided strategies to help staff:

● Sharpen the clarity of our writing;
● Understand plain language concepts;
● Learn to assess the grade level of our writing and to tailor it for a public audience; and
● Improve our communication with stakeholders and the public.

Advisory Boards

The Research and Policy Advisory Board (RPB) met for its monthly meeting on November 3rd. A draft of the 2016 Annual Report was presented to the RPB for their review and comment. In addition, Dr. Henneberger presented some of the tables that will be included in the 2016 Dual Enrollment Report. In both instances the feedback from the RPB was valuable and will strengthen both reports.

A Data Governance Advisory Board (Data GAB) meeting was held on October 19th. The meeting included discussions on the changes and updates to the MLDS Data Inventory, revisions to the Data Collection Calendar, and the creation of an Accountability Process for Late Data Submissions.

● The Center revises the Data Collection Calendar annually for review and approval by the Governing Board at the December meeting. During the October Data GAB meeting, Center staff collaborated with representatives of the partner agencies (MSDE, DLLR, and MHEC) to revise the Data Collection Calendar to meet the needs of both the partner agency and the Center.
● Annual revisions and updates to the Data Inventory are presented to the Governing Board for its review and approval each December. Center staff collaborated with Data GAB members on additions and revisions to the Data Inventory
● Center staff developed an accountability process for late data submissions in collaboration with the Data GAB. The accountability process provides a series of notices to the agency, the agency head, and ultimately the Governing Board in the event that data submissions are not received by the deadlines established in the agreed upon data collection calendar. This process will keep the Board apprised of any late data submissions.

REL Mid-Atlantic's Cross-Research Alliance Meeting

The REL Mid-Atlantic Cross-Research Alliance took place on October 7, 2016. This meeting brought together members of REL Mid-Atlantic's seven research alliances to learn from one another and share insights. Laia Tiderman and Ross Goldstein attended the conference as members of the Longitudinal Data Use Research Alliance. The theme of the conference was engagement – with students, teachers, families, and communities. Ross and Laia returned with useful information on measuring student, teacher, and community engagement for future research; and information on ways to engage stakeholders in the work of the Center.

Education Commission of the States (ECS)
The ECS released a [50-State Comparison: Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems](#) on October 17, 2016. ECS researched SLDS policies across the nation to provide a comprehensive resource. The MLDSC was contacted to provide and verify the information reported on Maryland. An infographic highlighting key finds is here: [Snapshot: Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems](#). Maryland's individual state profile is available here:[State Longitudinal Data Systems - State Profile - Maryland](#)

Research
Center Research
Two new research reports have been published to the MLDS Center website:
1. [Remedial Coursework in Maryland: Examining Trends, High School Predictors, and College Outcomes](#); and
2. [High School Persisters: An Examination of College and Workforce Outcomes.](#)

The remedial coursework report was presented for the MLDS Center research series on October 6, 2016. This presentation was also submitted to and accepted by the Maryland Association for Institutional Research (MD AIR) conference.

The research team continues working on data briefs (one pagers) and on updating the code from published reports to transfer to the new operational database. The preliminary results for the 2016 dual enrollment report were prepared and shared at the November Research and Policy Advisory Board meeting and for external review with key stakeholders.

The research team is in the process of screening applicants for the statistician/research analyst position. The field has been narrowed down to two candidates who will take part in interviews via Skype.

Synthetic Data Project (SDP)
The Synthetic Data Project (SDP) Team has been creating "flat" (single 2-dimensional data sets) with the MLDS de-identified data in order to examine the characteristics of those data. Those examinations have led to consultations with the Center data team to discuss issues and concerns identified. Getting the data in the best shape is the first step in working with the data in preparation for building models upon which synthetic data will be created. The team is also in the later stages of hiring a Manager/Coordinator for the SDP. There is a candidate visiting campus Thursday, November 3rd. The individual hired will be a critical member of the SDP Team as that person will be full-time leading the coordination of tasks, activities, and logistics for the project.

System Management
Security Audit
The second and final phase of the voluntary, independent security audit was completed. The final phase was the penetration test. Staff will be receiving the final report with recommendations within the next week.

Dashboards

Staff is working on a series of dashboards that provide information on graduates of Maryland Higher Education Institutions who go on to work in Maryland Public Schools. Specifically the dashboards explore the higher education institutions that are producing public school workers, the counties where they are employed, their degree types, and their first year earnings.

Hiring Process

Approximately 40 resumes each for the Data Analyst and Business Analyst positions were received. Staff is reviewing the resumes and selecting the most qualified for interviews in the coming weeks.

Data Inventory

Staff have been working to develop a dynamic Data Inventory that will be accessible on the Center website. The dynamic Data Inventory will replace the previous static versions, and will allow uses to sort and view the data elements in a variety of ways.

Other Tasks and Accomplishments

1. Created a dynamic and interactive Data Dictionary that is available to staff through Intranet;
2. Working to resolve latency issues that arose as a result of the migration to DoIT enterprise Firewall solution (interaction with the database it is three times slower);
3. Working to resolve latency issues on MLDS computers following the change to McAfee Anti-Virus implemented by DoIT;
4. Working with DoIT on the configuration of the CommVault storage and backup solution, including defining backup and retention polices, encryption policies, and plans for testing the restore capabilities.

Data loading

Staff are loading GED, NEDP, and 2016 second quarter Unemployment Insurance wage files received from DLLR. Staff is also performing identity resolution for individuals in the database who have multiple system ID'S for the same Social Security Number. The process is a continual data quality process with each new data load. Staff is also working on loading the National Student Clearinghouse data for 2016 and K12 Attendance data for 2016. Finally, the MHEC enrollment and end-of-term data have been received and loaded.

Dashboard Hits

The following are the top 10 dashboards by number of hits.

Dashboard Name	Hits
High School Graduates Initial Postsecondary Enrollments By Year	26
Initial Postsecondary Enrollments In State vs Out of State	16
High School Graduates Initial Postsecondary Enrollments	15
Highest Enrollments by In-State Institution	14
Initial Postsecondary Enrollments Type of Institution	13
High School Graduates Initial Postsecondary Enrollments By Race Ethnicity	12
Overview of High School Outcomes	10
High School Graduates Initial Postsecondary Enrollments By Gender	10
High School Graduates Initial Postsecondary Enrollments By FARMS status	9
Initial Postsecondary Enrollments Type of Institution by Gender	8