



Monthly Report for February 2017

Submitted March 3, 2017

General Assembly

Budget Hearings

Each year, the House and Senate budget committees hold a Higher Education Overview. Part of the overview includes requests for information from different higher education stakeholders. The MLDS Center was asked to respond to a question regarding whether it is possible for the annual Dual Enrollment Report to include data from the most recent completed academic year. Attached is a copy of the written testimony submitted in response to the question.

Also this past month were the House and Senate Budget Committee hearings on the MSDE Headquarters budget (which contains the Center's budget). There were no proposed cuts. The Center was asked to respond to several questions, including: (a) how legislators or other State policymakers can make longitudinal data requests; (b) what progress the Center has made toward resolving issues highlighted in the Data Gap Analysis, and (c) a timeline for determining whether the synthetic data project will be successful. Attached is a copy the written testimony submitted in response to those questions.

Legislation

The legislation to increase, from 5 years to 20 years, the amount of time that a student record may remain linked to a workforce record after the student's last enrollment in a Maryland educational institution is moving forward. In the House, Delegate Kaier's [HB 680](#) has received a hearing and a favorable report by the Ways and Means Committee. A copy of the Center's testimony is attached. In the Senate, Senator Waugh's [SB 1165](#) was filed last week.

Meetings

Data Governance Advisory Board (Data GAB) Meeting

The Data Governance Advisory Board met February 15, 2017. The meeting included a discussion of how data within the partner agencies may be revised and how those changes should be communicated to the MLDS Center. There was further discussion on developing a process to address agency data changes.

Research and Policy Advisory Board Meeting

The Research and Policy Advisory Board met on March 2, 2017. The meeting included a review of the agenda for the upcoming Governing Board Meeting, a review of a draft of a planned dashboard and data brief, and a discussion about the Center's mission and vision statement.

SLDS Best Practices Conference and Pre-Conference Sessions

Ann Kellogg, Director of Reporting Services for the Center and MHEC Liaison, attended the annual SLDS conference in mid-February. Ann attended a number of sessions on dashboard development processes and networked with her counterparts in other states to gain insight into their dashboard development processes. Ann is incorporating the knowledge she gained from attending the conference into revising the dashboard development cycle.

Dashboard Development

Development on two dashboards continues. The first dashboard will utilize data from the Dual Enrollment report. The second dashboard will identify bachelor degree graduates from Maryland public postsecondary institutions who become novice teachers in Maryland public schools. The queries have been developed for both dashboards and staff are currently validating the query results.

Dashboard Development Cycle

The Center is revising its process for developing new dashboards and expanding and updating existing dashboards. This process includes a new vetting stage for dashboard development that will allow data exploration in advance of the actual dashboard development cycle. Vetting data in advance of dashboard development should help streamline the development process by identifying challenges with data quality and/or data availability. The new process also includes identifying sources for validating dashboard query results. For example, MHEC produces an annual Databook providing metrics on student populations by institution against which some queries could be compared.

MHEC Collections Components

Staff have completed a first draft of documentation on file transmission from MHEC to MLDSC. The draft is currently under review by MLDSC and MHEC and will be finalized in March. This document captures information about when data are collected, what data are in each collection, establishes naming conventions for files, and provides a tracking mechanism for each file from the time it is received at MHEC until the time it is loaded by MLDSC.

Research

Research Series

Dr. Angela Henneberger presented the February research series on highlights from the 2016 dual enrollment report. The March research series examined the effects of the Howard P. Rawlings Educational Assistance (EA) grant on financial aid, academic persistence, and working while in school. The presentation was given by Heath Witzen, MLDSC Graduate Research Fellow.

Other Updates

The research team has been examining the content related to research on the website, editing the *Consumer Guide to Research*, and editing the summaries of the policy reports.

The research team welcomes Alison Preston, who is working as a part time contractual employee. Alison's work does not require access to Center data and will instead involve developing written content and literature research.

Synthetic Data Project (SDP)

The SDP Team has been focused on preparations for the End-User Panel meeting coming up on March 14th. The team has 14 education and workforce researchers coming, including scholars from universities, institutional researchers from universities and school districts, and research and policy personnel from MSDE and MHEC. The team has the materials and meeting plans finalized and have sought review and approval from the Executive Director and Counsel.

The search processes to hire a temporary IT Program Manager and a Database Engineer continue, with preliminary review of qualified applicants underway. Assessment of the data available for the gold standard data sets (GSDS) continues. The team has begun building the table structures for the GSDS.

Additional servers will be added to MLDSC environment to support the SDP project. Those servers and software are being procured through MSDE. The SDP database system with new schema and tables are created in the MLDSC environment and will add improved performance after the new servers installed.

Systems Management Branch

Tasks

The system management team completed the following tasks this month:

1. Procured and installed Dreamweaver (Web design tool) and Microsoft Project;
2. Upgraded OBIEE test server to latest version 12C (will be working to upgrade the production environment;
3. Added Dashboard Hits and Website Analytics on MLDSC internal Intranet sites for staff access;
4. Built a new internal dashboard to collect dashboard hits with Webcenter metadata;
5. Worked to fully implement and begin using the Govdelivery communication service; and
6. Specifications for query to build the datasets for MHEC's Student Outcomes and Achievements Report (SOAR) was completed. The final query cannot be run until MHEC provides two collection files to the MLDSC.

Security

MLDSC has developed an Action Items List from the recommendations from the recently completed security audit. Staff is in the process of taking steps to address each of the recommendations. One of the recommendations is to conduct Cyber Security Training. Staff has come to an agreement with the vendor providing the training and is now working to finalize a date, time and location.

Data Loading

Staff completed the following data loading tasks:

1. Loaded High School Assessment (HSA) for the Academic year 2015 & 2016;
2. Loaded 100% of the MHEC enrollment information for Winter 2016 (count=25,192) and Spring 2016 (count=342,037). The large majorities (94%) of the enrollment records are new to the system, and the balance had been previously loaded from National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) data collections. The previously-loaded records were updated with additional variables (such as credit hours attempted) supplied by MHEC but not by NSC. The enrollment data contained attendance records for 341,099 distinct persons. Most (96%) of these could be resolved to an existing identity in the system, and new identities were created for 14,369 persons. Performing Identity Resolution for individuals who have multiple system ID'S for the same identifier (SSN) is in progress which is a continued process with every load.

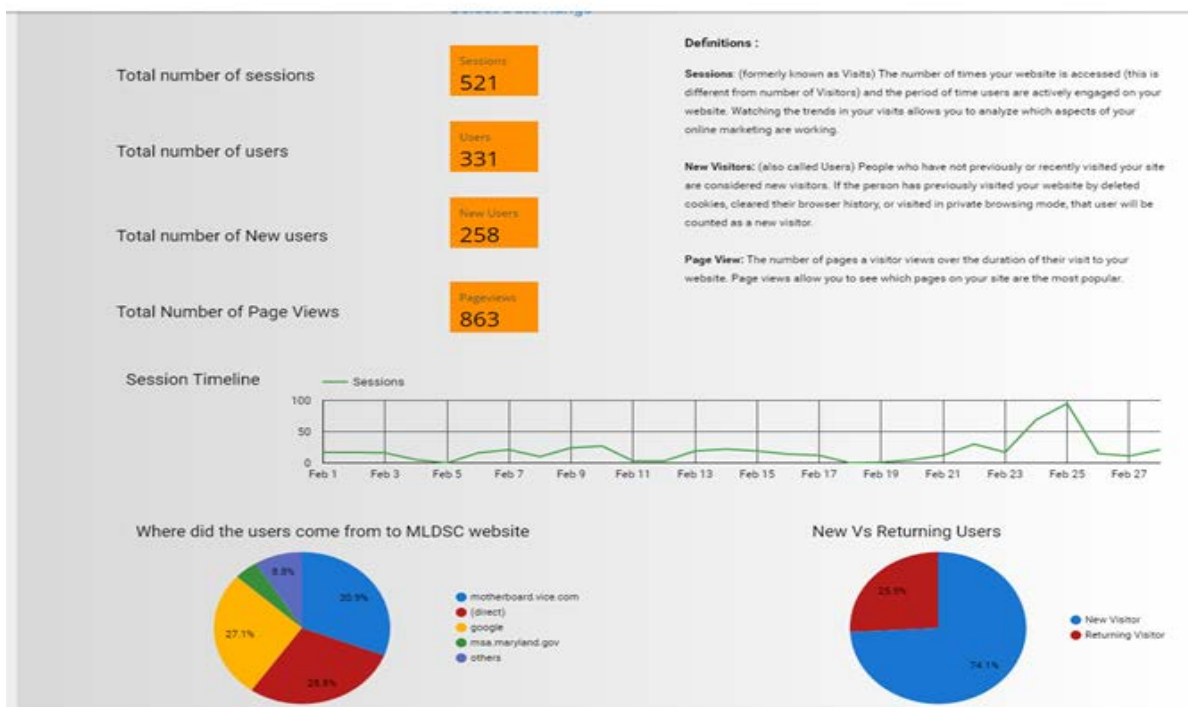
Website

Top 10 dashboard hits

Dashboard Name	Hits
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1. High School Graduates - Initial Postsecondary Enrollments	58
18. Students Who Initially Enroll in a Maryland Community College - Outcomes	38
2. High School Graduates - Initial Postsecondary Enrollments By Year	34
28. High School Outcomes by Industry	32
3. High School Graduates Initial Postsecondary Enrollments By County	30
21. High School Outcomes - Overview	27
24. High School Outcomes and Postsecondary Enrollment Status - Annualized Wages Over Time	26
11. High School Graduates with Initial Postsecondary Enrollments	24
25. Overview of High School Outcomes	21
7. Initial Postsecondary Enrollments - In State vs Out of State	21

Website Traffic



DoIT Enterprise Management

Project	Status
Migration of firewall Management from MSDE to	Successfully completed

DoIT Tier Point location.	
CommVault Backup - DoIT has configured CommVault solution at MSDE data center for all local backups.	In progress. Staff worked with DoIT to set up the Center's backup and retention policies. Encryption policies have been set up for MLDSC. Staff are working on testing the encrypted backup.
Offsite Backup	In progress.
Google email syncing with MLDSC Active directory	Successfully completed.
Global VPN	In progress
IP Address scheme change	In progress. This is a result of DoIT's policy requiring all IP addresses to be SWGI compliant and in the same IP designated range.
McAfee Virus software	Completed. Staff continues to work with DoIT to resolve system slowness in systems as a result of the installation of the software.
Service Now	Completed. All of MLDSC service desk/help desk tickets will be processed by DoIT.
MLDSC server migration	In progress.