TENNESSEE INDEPENDENT COLLEGES
AND
UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION

OVERVIEW OF THE 2007-08
TENNESSEE EDUCATION LOTTERY
SCHOLARSHIP RECEPIENTS

SEPTEMBER 2008
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Preface

The Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association (TICUA) is pleased to present the results of the 2008 study on the impact of the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship (TELS) program. The study highlights trends in participation and retention of TELS recipients attending TICUA campuses. Since the program’s inception, students attending TICUA member campuses have benefited from over $120 million in TELS awards.

In 2007-08, over 10,200 students attending TICUA member institutions received a TELS award. Of that total, more than 3,900 students also earned a supplemental award based on academic performance or financial need. Last year, students at TICUA institutions received over $41.8 million in TELS awards—$37.2 million awarded to students receiving the base HOPE scholarship. Students from almost every county in the State received a TELS award to attend a private college or university in the State.

TICUA welcomes your thoughts and comments on this publication through email at research@ticua.org.
2007-08 Highlights

Program Participation

- In 2007-08, students attending Tennessee’s private colleges and universities received over $41.8 million from the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship (TELS) program.

- Of that total, the State distributed over $37.2 million to students receiving the base HOPE Scholarship of $4,000 to attend a TICUA member institution.

- More than 10,200 students attending Tennessee’s private colleges received a TELS award. Of those students, 24% received the supplemental Aspire Award (based on a student’s financial need) and another 14% received the General Assembly Merit Scholarship (based on student’s academic performance).

- In 2007-08, the majority (85%) of the TELS recipients attending private colleges and universities were White, while 7% were Black, 3% were Asian or Pacific Islander, 1% was Hispanic, and 4% did not report race or ethnicity.

- Of all Black students receiving the base HOPE Scholarship to attend a private college or university, over 51% also benefited from the Aspire Award, a need-based supplement.

- Sixty-two percent of all base HOPE Scholarship recipients attending TICUA member institutions were female.

- In 2007-08, Tennessee students from almost every county in the State received a TELS award to attend a Tennessee private college or university.

- TICUA institutions continue to enroll proportionately higher levels of TELS recipients when compared to the percentage of in-state undergraduates enrolled in higher education in Tennessee.

Scholarship Retention

- From fall 2004 to fall 2007, first-time freshmen who were base HOPE Scholarship recipients at TICUA member campuses were more likely to retain their scholarship awards than first-time freshmen attending public colleges and universities.

- Of the fall 2004 cohort, 33% of all TELS recipients at private colleges and universities retained their award three years later.
• Since fall 2004, about 3,700 students attending TICUA member campuses have lost their TELS award. The majority (84%) of these students lost their award because they did not maintain the required grade point average.

• In fall 2007, more than 320 students attending TICUA member campuses regained their TELS awards.

**College Completion**

• In all, more than 3,000 TELS recipients have graduated from private colleges and universities in Tennessee.

• Of those TELS recipients who first received the TELS awards in 2004, 54% have graduated from private colleges and universities in Tennessee.

• Of those TELS recipients who have earned a degree at a private college or university, 75% retained the award through the duration of their collegiate career.
Overview of the 2007-08 Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship

This report highlights student participation and retention in the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship (TELS) program with regard to students attending one of TICUA’s undergraduate institutions. This study spotlights data from the past year (academic year 2007-08) and, when available, includes data from academic years 2006-07, 2005-06 and 2004-05.

The first section of this report provides a brief overview of the TELS program. Following this section, the report highlights the award distribution including information by gender, ethnicity, county, and major. The next section examines college participation patterns and ways these patterns have changed since the enactment of the program. When data are available, information on students attending TICUA member institutions is compared to students attending other colleges and universities in Tennessee. The final section examines college completion by TELS recipients.

Program Overview
In 2004, the Tennessee General Assembly enacted the TELS program to award scholarships to Tennessee college students. The first students benefiting from this program were students enrolling in college in the fall of 2004 as first-year and second-year students. This program reached maturity in the 2007-08 academic year with five cohorts of students participating in the program. The inaugural class of first-time freshmen graduated in 2008.

The State created the program to address several public policy objectives:

- Improving academic performance in high school through college scholarship incentives
- Providing financial assistance to students to promote college access
- Retaining the State’s best and brightest high school students by creating an incentive for remaining in the State to attend college
- Enhancing and promoting economic and community development through workforce development

The TELS program initially was comprised of five distinct award types. Table 1 outlines for the academic year 2007-08 scholarship amounts and eligibility criteria for the four award types for which students at TICUA institutions are eligible. The initial legislation authorized an additional scholarship known as the Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant, which provides money to students studying at the State’s technology centers.
Table 1
2007-08 TELS Program Award Amounts and Eligibility Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Tennessee HOPE Scholarship (base award)</th>
<th>General Assembly Merit Scholarship (HOPE with merit supplement)</th>
<th>Aspire Award (HOPE with need-based supplement)</th>
<th>Access Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Award amount at 4-year institutions</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$5,500</td>
<td>$2,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award amount at 2-year institutions</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>$1,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School GPA</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>3.75</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>2.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT Score</td>
<td>or 21</td>
<td>and 29</td>
<td>or 21 and 18-20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Adjusted Gross Income</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>$36,000 or less</td>
<td>$36,000 or less</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The base HOPE Scholarship is a broad-based award for students whose high school GPA is at least 3.0 or whose composite ACT score is at least 21. The Aspire Award is a need-based supplement to the base HOPE Scholarship granted to students whose families earn less than $36,000. The General Assembly Merit Scholarship (GAMS) is a merit-based supplement to the base HOPE Scholarship earned by students with at least a 3.75 high school GPA and a composite score of at least 29 on the ACT. The HOPE Access Grant provides a one-year scholarship to students from families earning less than $36,000 with a high school GPA between 2.75 and 2.99 and a composite ACT score between 18 and 20.

The TELS program is now comprised of several additional scholarship programs including the Dual Enrollment Grant, Foster Child Grant, the HOPE Scholarship for non-traditional students (for Tennessee residents 25 years), and a graduate scholarship for teachers returning to be certified in math or science. In 2008, the Legislature added scholarships for veterans of the War on Terror and the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan (Helping Heroes Grant) as well as rural health scholarships to increase the numbers of health service providers in underserved areas of the State. Since these programs do not have the scope of the original programs, they are not included in this analysis.
**Allocation and Distribution**

This section of the report focuses on Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship (TELS) distribution by award type for students attending TICUA member institutions. The section highlights data on the distribution of TELS award recipients by gender, ethnicity, county, and major. Finally, this section compares allocation of TELS awards by educational sector.

### Allocation by Award Type

**Figure 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Type</th>
<th>Allocation Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HOPE (base)</td>
<td>$37,202,247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aspire</td>
<td>$3,151,959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAMS</td>
<td>$1,417,349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access</td>
<td>$109,100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data reports unique awards.

In 2007-08, award dollars for the TELS program totaled $225.6 million across all programs and all institutions. (Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation, August 2008).

Since the inception, students at private colleges and universities have received $120.9 million from the State through the TELS program. In 2007-08 alone, students attending TICUA member institutions benefited from nearly $41.8 million in scholarships. Figure 1 shows the allocation amounts by award type. Students receiving the base HOPE Scholarship received the majority of the scholarship dollars – $37.2 million. The Aspire Award provided $3.1 million in additional financial aid to low-income students attending private colleges and universities in Tennessee. Private college and university students received a total of over $1.4 million dollars from the GAMS.
In 2007-08, more than 10,200 students attending TICUA member institutions received TELS awards. Figure 2 shows the distribution of recipients by award type. Of those students, 24% received base HOPE Scholarship and the supplemental Aspire Award, and 14% received base HOPE Scholarship and the supplemental GAMS. These percentages remained relatively stable from the year before (25% and 11% respectively).

Lipscomb University enrolled the most base HOPE Scholarship recipients for the third year in a row with 822 students, followed by Belmont University with 803, Vanderbilt University with 754, Carson-Newman College with 679, Union University with 646, and Maryville College with 606.

For academic year 2007-08, Carson-Newman College enrolled the most Aspire Award recipients with 165, followed by Lee University with 153. In all, TICUA member campuses enrolled 2,390 Aspire Award recipients – about one out of every five in the State.

TICUA member institutions with the most students receiving the GAMS in 2007-08 included Vanderbilt University with 425 recipients, Lipscomb University with 159 recipients, followed by Belmont University with 129.

For this same year, 15 TICUA member campuses enrolled 37 Access Grant recipients. This was about 11% of all State Access Grant recipients.
In 2007-08, the majority (62%) of the base HOPE Scholarship recipients attending TICUA institutions were female, as seen in Figure 3. This figure remains slightly higher than the overall percentage of female students attending Tennessee’s public and private colleges in fall 2007 (at 58%).

An analysis of TICUA member institutions with more than 500 TELS recipients in 2007-08 supports the trend of proportionately higher female enrollment in this program. Table 2 presents the number of male and female HOPE recipients and as a percentage of the total number of recipients. Belmont University has the largest percentage of female recipients at just over 69%.

The gender distribution of the ASPIRE Award recipients skews slightly more female than the base HOPE Scholarship recipients with 66% female and 34% male. The Access Grant and the GAMS recipients skew slightly less female than distribution of the base HOPE Scholarship recipients does. For the Access Grant, 61% of recipients are female and 39% male. The GAMS recipients are 54% female and 46% male.
In 2007-08, as shown in Figure 4, the majority (85%) of students receiving the base HOPE Scholarship attending private colleges and universities were White (8,634), while approximately 7% (706) were Black, 3% were Asian or Pacific Islander, 1% was Hispanic and 4% did not report their ethnicity or race. As shown in Table 3, these recipient percentages by ethnicity are different from fall 2007 undergraduate enrollment by ethnicity for TICUA member institutions. For instance, Black students comprise 15% of overall undergraduate enrollment at TICUA member institutions, while reflecting 7% of the base HOPE Scholarship recipients (TICUA, January 2008). This trend is consistent, though less pronounced, in the State’s public institutions (Tennessee Higher Education Commission, 2008).

Table 3
RACE/Ethnicity of TICUA students and TICUA lottery recipients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>% Total HOPE Scholarship Recipients</th>
<th>% of Fall 2007 Undergraduate Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian or Pacific Islander</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black, not Hispanic</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American or Alaskan</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-resident alien</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown/Unreported</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White, not Hispanic</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In 2007-08, TICUA member institutions enrolled 19% of all Aspire Award recipients. Figure 5 represents the distribution of Aspire Award Recipients by ethnicity. The majority (74%) of students receiving the Aspire Award attending private colleges and universities were White (1,779), while approximately 15% (365) were Black, 4% were Asian or Pacific Islander, 2% were Hispanic and 4% did not report their ethnicity or race.

Among Black students receiving the base HOPE Scholarship at TICUA institutions, a slight majority also receive the Aspire Award. Over 51% of the 706 Black students receiving the base HOPE Scholarship to attend a private college or university also benefited from the Aspire Award.

The percentage of White students receiving the GAMS to attend a private college is similar to those receiving the base HOPE Scholarship – 86%. However, the distribution of scholarships among other racial and ethnic groups differs from the distribution of the base HOPE Scholarship. Just over 1% of students receiving the GAMS are Black, but more than 5% identify as Asian or Pacific Islander and almost 2% identify as Hispanic. Another 5% of GAMS recipients did not report a racial or ethnic category.
In 2007-08, students from almost every county in the State received a TELS award to attend a TICUA institution. No student from Clay, Pickett, or Van Buren counties used a TELS award to attend a private college in Tennessee. A review of all TELS recipients by county level (see Figure 6) indicates that the distribution of award recipients is similar to the distribution by population level. Table 4 presents data on the five counties with the most TELS recipients. Shelby, the most populous county in the state, has 1,410 TELS recipients attending TICUA member institutions. The next four counties with the highest TELS recipients include Davidson (969 recipients), Knox (623 recipients), Williamson (626 recipients), and Hamilton (510 recipients). All of these counties are in the top five by population, except for Williamson, which ranks ninth in overall population. These five counties enroll 40% of all TELS scholarship recipients attending TICUA member institutions and also represent 40% of the total state population (US Census Bureau, 2000).

### Table 4
**TELS Recipients by County**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th># of TELS Recipients</th>
<th>Population Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shelby</td>
<td>1410</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davidson</td>
<td>969</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williamson</td>
<td>626</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knox</td>
<td>623</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>510</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Sources: Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association, 2007; US Census Bureau, 2000

### Distribution by Major
TELS recipients who reported majors declared in a wide variety of fields. The top three majors for TELS recipients are similar to majors of TICUA students in general. Table 5 presents the top three majors of TELS recipients. Sixteen percent of TELS recipients declared majors in the health professions, 14% in business related fields and 12% in education.

### Table 5
**Headcount and Percentages of TELS Recipients by Major**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Majors</th>
<th>Headcount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Professions</td>
<td>1244</td>
<td>16.18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business and Related Majors</td>
<td>1084</td>
<td>14.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>941</td>
<td>12.24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Award Allocation at Tennessee’s Public and Private Colleges and Universities

This section highlights the award distribution of the HOPE Scholarships by higher education sector. In 2007-08, the State distributed more than 65,000 TELS awards—worth more than $220 million—to students attending Tennessee’s public and private colleges and universities (Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation, 2008).

Figure 7

HOPE Dollars/Recipients/Undergraduate In-state Enrollment by Higher Education Sector, 2007-08


Figure 7 compares distribution of award allocation, award recipients, and in-state enrollment by education sector. In 2007-08, an examination of award dollars by higher education sector reveals that 38% of scholarship award dollars were given to students attending Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) four-year institutions, followed by 29% to students attending the University of Tennessee (UT) system, 20% to students attending the independent colleges and universities, and 13% to students attending the State’s community and technical schools.

In 2007-08, approximately 31% of all TELS recipients attended one of the TBR four-year institutions, while 23% attended an institution in the UT system, 16% attended a four-year or two-year private college or university, and 30% attended a 2-year technical or community college.

TICUA member institutions enroll proportionately fewer Tennessee students than other higher education sectors in the State. Last fall, a little more than half (56%) of undergraduate students attending TICUA member institutions were Tennessee residents, while 87% of undergraduate students attending UT institutions and 88% of undergraduate students attending TBR four-year institutions were State residents (Tennessee Higher Education Commission, 2008b).
Of the total 198,248 in-state undergraduates, the UT system enrolled 16% of in-state undergraduates and 23% of TELS recipients. TICUA member campuses enrolled 14% of in-state undergraduates and 16% of TELS recipients. This analysis shows that UT institutions and private colleges and universities enroll proportionately higher levels of TELS recipients when compared to their percentage of overall undergraduate in-state enrollment. TBR two-year and four-year institutions enroll a smaller proportion of TELS recipients when compared to overall in-state undergraduate enrollment in postsecondary education. TBR two-year institutions account for 38% of total undergraduate in-state enrollment, and enroll 30% of all TELS recipients. TBR four-year institutions accounted for 32% of total undergraduate in-state enrollment and enrolled 31% of TELS recipients.
College Participation

One of the primary goals of the TELS program is to increase the opportunity for Tennesseans to attend college by providing financial incentives to students based on academic performance. To gauge the impact of the TELS program on enrollment patterns, this section examines the trends of high school graduates in Tennessee and enrollment patterns of first-time freshmen at TICUA member institutions.

Figure 8 illustrates an increase in the number of students graduating from both public and private high schools in the State. College students could take advantage of the TELS award beginning in fall 2004. From academic year 2003-04 to academic year 2004-05, the number of students graduating from high school rose by 4%. At the same time, college participation at TICUA institutions for first-time freshman increased by 8%. These figures suggest that the enactment of the TELS program contributed some of the enrollment growth in first-time freshman.

*estimated
Figure 9 represents enrollment patterns for first-time freshman at TICUA member institutions serving undergraduate students. The greatest increase occurs between fall 2003 and fall 2004 – fall 2004 was the first year students could take advantage of the TELS program. These data suggest that enactment of the lottery program affected the fall 2004 first-time freshman enrollment figures at TICUA member institutions. The years following fall 2004 show enrollment figures at least as high as the figure for 2004, sustaining the growth that occurred from 2003 to 2004.

Figure 10

Data represents first-time freshmen students who graduated from high school in the past 12 months.
Figure 10 shows a slight shift beginning in 2004 in the percentage of Tennessee high school graduates enrolling in TICUA campuses immediately after high school. Before the inception of the TELS program began, about 42% of students at TICUA institutions were from in-state. In 2004 that number increased to 45% and in 2006 it further increased to 47%. In 2002, 6.4% of Tennessee high school graduates enrolled in a TICUA member institution following high school. In 2004, this percentage rose slightly to 6.6% of recent high school graduates enrolling in a TICUA institution immediately after graduation. In fall 2006, this figure rose 8.2%. These numbers reinforce the connection between increases in in-state undergraduate enrollment at TICUA member institutions and the TELS program.

Based on the first four years of the TELS program, the data reflect a greater increase in the number of Tennessee students enrolling in TICUA member institutions than in past years. While there may be other reasons for this enrollment increase, the TELS program may have encouraged higher levels of enrollment. Preliminarily, the data suggest that the TELS program is on target for the policy goal of increasing educational opportunity for Tennesseans by providing financial assistance to students to attend college based on good academic performance. In the coming years, it will be important to continue to track changes in high school graduates, enrollment by high school students in TICUA institutions, and first-time freshman enrollment in order to understand the impact of the TELS program.
Scholarship Retention

Scholarship Retention at TICUA Institutions

Figure 11

Percentage of Fall 2004 Cohort of Students Retaining TELS Awards

Data reports unique recipients attending four-year TICUA member institutions, excluding Vanderbilt University.

Figure 11 presents the retention rates for the fall 2004 cohort of students who received TELS awards. Between fall 2004 and fall 2005, 58% of all student recipients of the base HOPE Scholarship attending four-year TICUA member institutions retained their award. Of those students, approximately 49% retained their base HOPE Scholarship two years later. Figure 11 also reveals that students receiving the supplemental GAMS were more likely to retain their award compared to students receiving the supplemental Aspire Award or the base HOPE Scholarship.

The retention rates of awards by the 2004 cohort through 2007 show a decline in the number of students retaining the award into their fourth year. This parallels the published rates of retention for the program as a whole. The Tennessee Higher Education Commission indicates that the rate of retention for the fall 2004 statewide cohort into the third year is 37% and into the fourth year is 32%. While students at TICUA member institutions retain the award at a greater rate before the fourth year, retention through the fourth year equals the retention of the award statewide. Information about retention rates for Vanderbilt students is currently not reported to TICUA and therefore is not included in the analysis of TELS retention rates. Analysis of future cohorts into their fourth years will provide a better understanding of scholarship retention.
Figure 12 shows retention rates for first-time freshman TELS recipients from fall 2004 to fall 2005. During this period, private college students receiving the TELS awards (base HOPE Scholarship, GAMS and Aspire Award) showed the most success with retaining their award compared to other sectors of higher education in Tennessee. Overall, independent institution students had a retention rate of 58%. Retention of the GAMS by independent institution students was highest at 91%.

Data varies slightly from TICUA computed retention rates because of difference in reporting periods between THEC and TICUA.

Examining the retention rates for the fall 2005 cohort of first-time freshman receiving TELS awards (Figure 13), reveals that this general trend remains the same. However, while private college students receiving the GAMS continue to retain the award at greater rates than do students at public two-year institutions, students at public four-year institutions retained the GAMS at a greater rate than those students at independent institutions. Overall, students attending independent colleges continue to retain their awards at higher rates (65%) compared to students at public colleges and universities.

**Figure 14**

Percentage of First-Time Freshman Retaining TELS Awards, Fall 06-Fall 07

Data varies slightly from TICUA computed retention rates because of difference in reporting periods between THEC and TICUA.

The general trend continues for the fall 2006 cohort of first-time freshman receiving TELS awards (Figure 14). Students at independent institutions had the highest total retention rate across all programs at 56%, followed by students at public four-year institutions at 54%.

Loss of the Award
Since fall 2004, approximately 3,700 TELS recipients attending TICUA member institutions have failed to retain the lottery scholarship. Of those who lost awards, 84% of the students failed to maintain the grade point average qualification (GPA requirement is 2.75 until the student has earned 48 credit hours; the student must maintain a 3.0 GPA at all subsequent checkpoints) and another 7% reached the maximum number of credit hours. The percentage of students reaching the maximum credit hours jumped from 2% the previous year. During the 2008 legislative session, the General Assembly adjusted the retention requirements in terms of both retention GPA and maximum number of credit hours a student is eligible for the award.

It is important to note that these figures do not include students who once received TELS awards to attend a TICUA member institution but who are no longer enrolled. From fall 2004 to spring 2008, the data reveal that 2,305 students who at one time received the TELS award to attend a TICUA member institution were no longer enrolled at that
institution. Unfortunately, the data do not indicate if these students re-enrolled in a Tennessee public college or university or dropped out of school.

Regain of the Award
In 2005, the Tennessee General Assembly enacted a TELS program rule that allows base HOPE Scholarship recipients who lost their award an opportunity to regain it. In the initial year of this regain provision, more than 320 students attending TICUA member campuses regained the TELS award.
Degree Completion

2004 Cohort Completion Rates
As spring 2008 is the end of the fourth academic year since the TELS program began, it is not yet possible to determine six-year completion rates for this initial cohort. Preliminary analysis, however, suggests that the cohort will have significant completion rates. A complication in studying this cohort is that TICUA data from 2004-05 does not distinguish between first- and second-year students who received the awards.

In the fall of 2004, 4,630 first and second-year students enrolled at private colleges and universities with TELS awards. Through spring 2008, 54% or 2,496 of these students had earned a bachelor’s or associate’s degree. Of those who have earned a degree, 75% (1,865) had retained TELS awards for the duration of their college career. A review of data from spring 2008 shows that 667 students from the 2004 cohort were still enrolled and progressing toward a degree. It is anticipated that six-year completion rates for the 2004 cohort will show that a substantial percentage of these students earned a college degree.

Incomplete Data
The TICUA database no longer tracks 1,467 students from the 2004 cohort. This creates a complication in determining completion rates for the cohort. Various possibilities account for these missing students. The database is limited to students who are enrolled in private colleges. Therefore, students who have transferred to institutions out of state or to Tennessee public institutions are no longer represented in the database. Further, students who chose for financial or personal reasons to drop out of college are also omitted from the database. Without knowing more about why students are no longer represented in the database, accurate completion rates cannot be determined.

2005 and 2006 Cohort Completions
To date, 179 students who first received TELS awards in 2005 have earned a degree and 79 of those who first received the TELS awards in 2006 have earned a degree. More time is needed before completion rates for these cohorts can be calculated.
Conclusion

This report captures the first four years of the TELS program and the early impact this program has had on student financial aid, college participation, and college retention. The data reveal that the TELS program has promoted college access through financial incentives. The evidence to support this point comes from a slight increase in the percentage of Tennessee high school students since fall 2004 enrolling in TICUA institutions, and the fact that TICUA institutions enroll proportionately higher levels of HOPE Scholarship recipients when compared to the percentage of undergraduate in-state enrollment in higher education. In addition, data show that among Black students receiving the base HOPE Scholarship and attending TICUA institutions, the majority also receive the Aspire Award (given to students who come from a family income of $36,000 or less). It remains unclear if this award influences the overall completion rates of these students.

Regarding award retention, the data indicates that TELS recipients at TICUA member campuses are more likely to retain their awards than students attending public institutions. As this program continues, it will be important to track the changes in award retention and college completion from year to year in order to gauge the impact the TELS programs have had on students attending TICUA member institutions.
Methodology

TICUA strives to ensure that the information contained in this publication is as accurate and current as possible. The information on the TELS program reflects data collected from TICUA member institutions from fall 2004 to spring 2008.

TICUA staff using fall and spring enrollment reports beginning in fall 2004 compiled the majority of the data reported in this study. TICUA collects enrollment data twice a year in October and March. TICUA makes every effort to report data accurately and in a timely manner. However, TICUA is limited to reporting data consistent with the enrollment and completions reporting requirements. The analysis of some data excludes Vanderbilt University because Vanderbilt files only aggregated reports with TICUA, which does not contain information related to scholarship retention rates.

This report focuses on TICUA member institutions who serve undergraduate students, since only these students are eligible to receive the lottery award. TICUA membership includes three professional schools (Meharry Medical College, Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia, and Southern College of Optometry), which are not included in this analysis.

TICUA updates this report annually for TICUA member campuses.

References


TICUA Members

Aquinas College
Baptist College of Health Sciences
Belmont University
Bethel College
Bryan College
Carson-Newman College
Christian Brothers University
Crichton College
Cumberland University
Fisk University
Free Will Baptist Bible College
Freed-Hardeman University
Hiwassee College
John A. Gupton College
Johnson Bible College
King College
Lambuth University
Lane College
Lee University
LeMoyne-Owen College
Lincoln Memorial University
Lipscomb University
Martin Methodist College
Maryville College
Meharry Medical College
Memphis College of Art
Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia
Milligan College
Rhodes College
Sewanee: The University of the South
Southern Adventist University
Southern College of Optometry
Tennessee Wesleyan College
Trevecca Nazarene University
Tusculum College
Union University
Vanderbilt University

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