



# **MORE THAN A PROMISE:** **Financial and Programmatic Interventions** **at Tennessee Community Colleges**

Amanda Klafehn  
Taylor Odle

# Plan

- Need- and merit-based aid programs in Tennessee
- Competitive institutional grant programs
- Emergency financial aid/micro-grant programs
- Questions/Comments

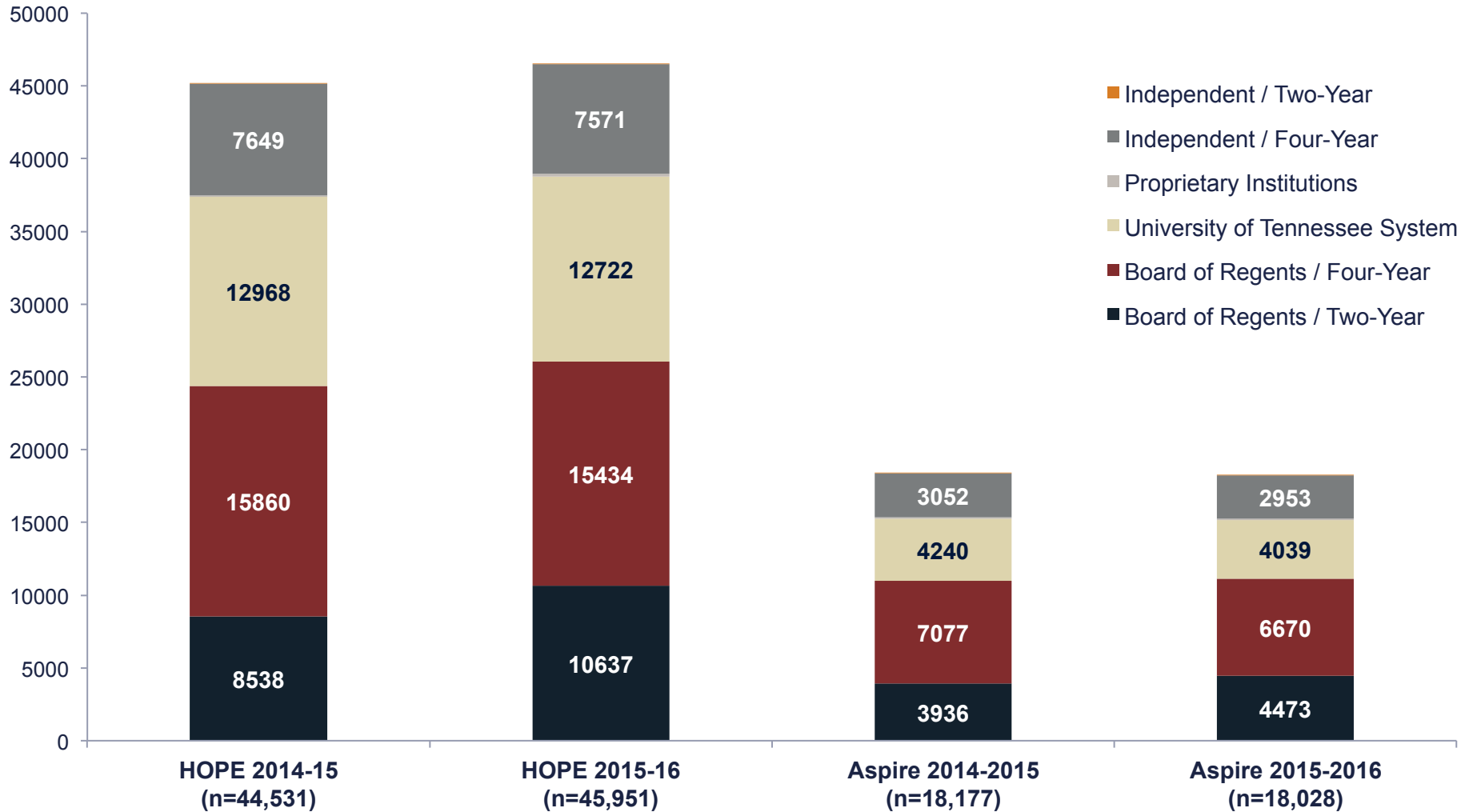
# Financial Aid in Tennessee

- TN Promise is a last-dollar scholarship, meaning that federal and state grants and scholarships are applied first
- Annual Tuition and Mandatory Fees at Community Colleges
  - 2015-16: **\$4,121**
  - 2016-17: **\$4,224**
- Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarships - **\$269.4 million** (2015-16)
  - HOPE
  - GAMS
  - Aspire
  - Access
- Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant - **\$14.9 million**
- Tennessee Student Assistance Award - **\$80.1 million**
- Tennessee Promise - **\$15.2 million**

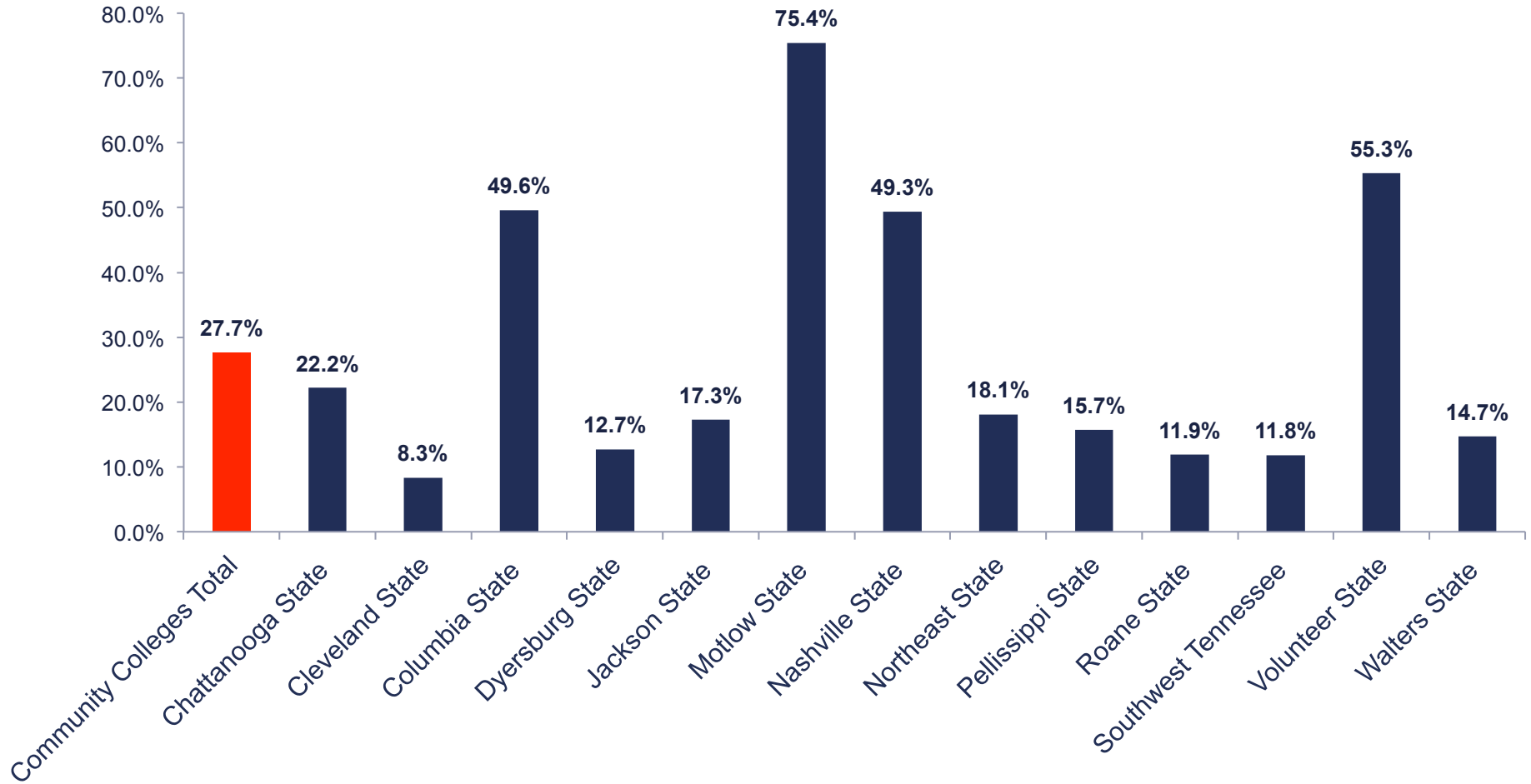
# Cohort One

- 58,000 students applied (80% of high school seniors)
- 16,200 enrolled
  - Approximately 8,830 students received any TNP dollars
  - \$15.2 million in 2015-16
  - **7,366** students were covered by other grant and scholarship dollars
- 10,193 received a lottery scholarship (63%) - **\$28.6 million**
- 5,837 received a TSAA award (36%) - **\$7 million**

# Lottery Scholarships by Institution Type



# First-Time Freshman Enrollment Fall 2014 to Fall 2015





**COMPETITIVE  
GRANTS**

# Tennessee Promise Forward

- Began in 2015 with funding through a College Access Challenge Grant from the USDOE
- Purpose: Increase retention and completion among TN Promise students across community colleges
- 3 rounds of grant funding
  - 7 community colleges / \$522,638
  - 5 community colleges / \$800,000
  - Underway – proposals due August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017
    - Anticipate awarding four grants with a maximum award of \$200,000



# Tennessee Promise Forward

- Rounds One & Two:
  - Software and technology-driven tools to improve advising and communications to students
    - Text messaging
    - Early alert systems
    - Guided pathways
  - Advisor capacity (new hires and peer mentor models)
  - First-Year Experience Initiatives
  - Combination Support Services
- Round Three:
  - Broad, systemic changes in advising and student success with the intent of increasing retention among TN Promise students.

# Outcomes – Rounds 1 & 2

## Cleveland State

- Series of intervention strategies:
  - Guided Pathways
  - Starfish Early Alert System
  - Completion Coaches
  - Bootcamp
  - Supplemental Academic Supports
- Outcomes:
  - 80% fall to spring retention rate (2016)
  - 54% fall to fall retention rate (2015)

## Pellissippi State

- Signal Vine two-way messaging software
  - Text messaging to students to schedule advising appointments
- Outcomes:
  - 84% fall to spring retention rate (2016)

# Institutional Outcome Improvement Fund (IOIF) Grant

- Outcomes-based funding formula
- Competitive grant to increase production of formula outcomes (Formula Units)
- \$1.6M non-recurring state appropriation
  - Two rounds of two-year \$800,000 (FY17 and FY18) grants
- Round 1: All eligible (n=22)
  - Six awards; 3 Universities and 3 Community Colleges
- Round 2: Cumulative deficient outcomes (n=9)
  - Four awards; 1 University and 3 Community Colleges

# IOIF, cont.

- Round 1: All eligible; Any outcome(s); Support your claim
  - Award Examples
    - Cleveland State Community College (SUCCESS): SSC, Starfish, Consultants
    - Walters State Community College (STARS): Success/Completion Coaches
  - Progress reports, Site Visits, Final Report
- Round 2: Targeted eligibility; Any outcome(s), with caveat; Support claim
  - Award Examples
    - Columbia State Community College: 36-CR, EAB (Navigate), One-Stop Shop
    - Jackson State Community College (Pathways to Success): “Transfer Talks/Travels”
- Institutional capacity-building v. targeted student interventions
- THEC website (Grants for Institutions), RFP and Webinar(s)



**EMERGENCY AID**

# Emergency Aid

- Microgrants, completion/retention grants, etc.
  - Loans
- APLU & USU (2015), Lumina (BFA), NYT
- Rationale:
  - Barriers to Success
  - Return on Investment (ROI)
- Evidence
- Prevalence

# Emergency Aid in Tennessee

- Survey (N=49)
  - 22 Emergency grant/loan programs
  - 917 awards in AY 2015-16
  - Average award: \$543
- Program Parameters
  - Pro-rata share (headcount)
  - Guiding principles (no cash, flexible/institutionally-driven)
  - Rigorous evaluation (data)
- Student Retention Grants
  - THEC FY19 \$1M state appropriation request
  - First, fully-state supported emergency aid program in U.S.

# Contact | Collaborate | Connect

**Amanda Klafehn**

Research Analyst for Lottery Scholarship Research

[Amanda.Klafehn@tn.gov](mailto:Amanda.Klafehn@tn.gov)

**Taylor K. Odle**

Assistant Director of Fiscal Policy and Research

[Taylor.Odle@tn.gov](mailto:Taylor.Odle@tn.gov)