MDE, IHL partner to increase opportunities for students to be better prepared for college

dents to earn college credit Preparatory ment into any of the state's Distinguished public universities and will ment. be placed in credit-bearing courses.

of 2019, all eight public readiness and AP exam for students endorsement. school year can start earn- tion at MDE. ing credit for those courses in a uniform manner among all the state's public univer-

Both initiatives provide a pathway for students to be better prepared for college-level work, without the need for remedial coursework. This will lead to increased opportunities for students who wish to attend one of Mississippi's public universities to earn credits while in high school.

"We want to ensure that every student that enters one of our universities finishes with a diploma in hand," said Dr. Glenn Boyce, Commissioner of Higher Education. "Both of these changes will allow students to get a good start on completing college while still in high school. I am pleased that we were able to partner with the Mississippi Department of Education to benefit Mississippi's students."

Dr. Carey Wright, state superintendent of education, said the initiatives are examples of how K-12 education and IHLs can partner to align the classes students take in high school with their college courses.

"We thank the IHL for recognizing that we are raising the bar for academic achievement in Mississippi and for, most importantly, recognizing those students who go above and beyond to prepare themselves for the rigors of college study," she said.

IHL recently revised the requirements for admission to their universities and aligned required and

The Mississippi Depart- recommended admission State Board of Education ment of Education (MDE) policies with the Missis- approved diploma options and the Mississippi Insti- sippi Diploma Academic that take effect in the 2018tutions of Higher Learning and Distinguished Endorse- 19 school year. The tradi-(IHL) have collaborated to ment Options developed by create opportunities for stu- MDE. The required College all students graduating from Curriculum before they enter the state's (CPC) for full admission public universities. Begin- to public universities now ning in 2022, freshmen en- aligns with the course rectering Mississippi's public ommendations for the MDE universities who earn an Academic Endorsement, academic or distinguished and the recommended CPC academic diploma endorse- for full admission aligns ment from the state's pub- with the course recommenlic school districts will dations for the Mississippi receive automatic enroll- Department of Education Endorse-

The IHL wanted to ensure that admission policies Also, effective in the fall are aligned to the college endorsements universities in Mississippi that MDE adopted and will will award 3 hours of col- be available for freshmen lege credit for an Advanced entering Mississippi's pub-Placement (AP) score of 3 lic high schools and any or higher on an AP exam. other high school students IHLs may provide up to who meet the requirements 6 credit hours, per exam, for an academic or distin- ment options will encourage depending on the subject guished academic diploma

scoring a 4 or 5. As a re- "This really makes it a sult, students who are tak- seamless transition," said ing college-level courses in Jean Massey, executive dihigh school in the 2018-19 rector of secondary educa-

In 2017, the Mississippi intendent of education.

tional diploma will require Mississippi high schools to have the same basic requirements and to earn 24 Carnegie Units.

After meeting the traditional diploma requirements, students can take additional career and technical education coursework to meet the requirements for the CTE endorsement or advanced, college-preparation coursework to earn an academic or distinguished academic endorsement. The CTE and academic endorsements require students to earn 26 Carnegie Units. Students must earn 28 Carnegie Units to qualify for the distinguished academic endorsement.

"The diploma endorsestudents to take advantage of their high school education to earn a credential that will benefit them in college, postsecondary training or the workforce," said Dr. Carey Wright, state super-

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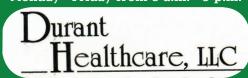


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