A recent poll of 600 registered Tennessee voters revealed important perspectives on the current state of higher education in Tennessee.

Top obstacles to earning a degree

- Job or work responsibilities: 68%
- Family responsibilities: 63%
- Cost of a degree: 62%
- Student loans: 58%

What priority level should Governor Bill Lee’s administration give to these issues?

Access and affordability of college and technical training

- TOP: 5%
- MIDDLE: 7%
- LOW: 28%
- OTHER: 61%

Student debt

- TOP: 8%
- MIDDLE: 11%
- LOW: 25%
- OTHER: 55%

Ability of graduates to succeed in the workplace

- TOP: 5%
- MIDDLE: 9%
- LOW: 24%
- OTHER: 63%

91% said having some form of education after high school is important.

41% said they need more education for the job/career they want.
Should Governor Lee’s administration change the amount of resources dedicated to higher education by the previous administration?

- 36% Allocate more resources
- 53% Keep about the same
- 6% Allocate fewer resources
- 6% Don’t know/Declined

Governor Haslam introduced the Drive to 55 initiative, which seeks to equip 55% of Tennesseans with a postsecondary certificate by 2025. Should Governor Lee continue this initiative?

- Strengthen it 41%
- Keep it as is 36%
- Replace it with a new approach 12%
- End it entirely 4%
- Don’t know/Declined 8%