Planning Assumptions

1. Fiscal decision-making must be predicated on the assumption that operating funds will be limited with no new monies anticipated and that current federal stimulus dollars are fixed and finite.

2. For Tennessee to be highly competitive in the global economy, it will be necessary to increase the number of higher education students who successfully earn a postsecondary credential.

3. Job growth will be dynamic for all post-secondary certificate and college degree earners especially in STEM, sustainability and health-related fields.

4. The entrepreneurial expectations of a global economy coupled with demands of complex worldwide social and political challenges will require augmented instruction in and exposure to international issues, peoples and places.

5. Changing lifestyles, high demand for continuous education and increased use of new communication devices will require the rapid deployment of innovative uses of technology in both higher education instruction and educational operations management.

6. Dramatic state demographic changes and ever greater demands on the quality of preparation for all students entering higher education will necessitate the development of new approaches to access and instruction that assure equal opportunity and optimum results for all.