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TO: Interested Parties
SUBJECT: Freshman-to-Sophomore Retention Rate – F23 to F24

Each year, we report our freshman-to-sophomore retention rate, which indicates the percentage of "first-time freshmen" from a specific fall semester who continue their studies at our school the following fall. This metric reflects educational quality, student satisfaction, and financial value, contributing to the university's financial stability. It also plays a significant role in college ranking formulas.

It's important to note that this figure does not represent the overall retention rate for all new students or the entire undergraduate population. Instead, it focuses solely on "first-time freshmen" (FTF) as defined by IPEDS (nces.ed.gov/IPEDS/glossary). These are degree-seeking students who enroll at TMU directly after high school without attending another college. They may have earned college credits in high school but are still considered first-time freshmen. Freshmen who start in the spring semester (January) are not included in FTF cohorts.

Despite these limitations, our freshman-to-sophomore retention rates are valuable for both internal and external evaluations and serve as a key indicator of college performance. Below is a table showing TMU's historical FTF freshman-to-sophomore retention rates, including the latest rate from Fall 2023 to Fall 2024.

Our retention rate for 2023-24 is **84%**. This number will be reported via IPEDS and will be our official number for this cycle.

TMU Trad FTF Freshman-to-Sophomore Retention Rates	
<i>Fall 2018- Fall 2019</i>	86%
<i>Fall 2019- Fall 2020</i>	82%
<i>Fall 2020- Fall 2021</i>	84%
<i>Fall 2021- Fall 2022</i>	86%
<i>Fall 2022- Fall 2023</i>	85%
<i>Fall 2023-Fall 2024</i>	84%
6 Yr. Average Rate	84%

This remains good news. *Our retention rate at 84% remains strong* and is higher than our peer group average* of 75%. It is also stronger than the national average for all four-year institutions of higher learning of 81% (NCES).

*Peer group is comprised of California Baptist University, Biola University, Azusa Pacific University, Vanguard University, Point Loma University, and Cedarville University. (BJU data not available)