

# **Kentucky Board of Education**

**October 9, 2012**

## **Report from the President of the Council on Postsecondary Education**

### **Kaleidoscope**

Kentucky is pleased to participate in Kaleidoscope, a multi-institution, multistate project that is implementing a set of general education courses to raise learning outcomes and retention of predominantly at-risk students. Using free online content available through Open Education Resources (OER), the project will dramatically reduce textbook costs and allow collaborative improvement of course design to improve student success. Funded by the Gates Foundation, eight institutions (public, private, two-year, and four-year) across six states have adopted this collaborative approach to assembling free course content. The Kaleidoscope process protects institutional and faculty control over their own curriculum and pedagogy. Kentucky has committed to participate in the next phase of Kaleidoscope, which will scale the project from a few thousand students to hundreds of thousands of students. So far in Kentucky, EKU, KCTCS, and KSU have agreed to participate. Similar discussions are underway with North Carolina, Massachusetts, Arizona, California, and a few other states. The next steps call for the first multistate gathering in October, leading to a grant request by the first of the year.

### **KYVC4K12.org Website**

The Council participated in the recent revamp of the virtual learning system of the Kentucky Department of Education. KDE moved from serving as a provider of online courses offered through the Kentucky Virtual High School to a partner in assisting schools and students in learning about full- and part-time online learning options available through multiple statewide providers.

The Council and KDE worked together to create the Kentucky Virtual Campus for K-12, located online at [www.kyvc4k12.org](http://www.kyvc4k12.org). The website provides easy access to approved state providers and their courses and provides expanded e-learning opportunities for Kentucky students.

So far, KDE has identified three online course providers, including Barren Academy of Virtual and Expanded Learning (BAVEL), Jefferson County eSchool, and Kentucky Educational Television (KET).

### **P-20 State Longitudinal Data System**

In July, Kentucky received a \$3.6 million grant from the federal Institute for Education Statistics grant to build its P-20 state longitudinal data systems. As part of this grant, CPE was awarded \$816,000 over three years to enhance its own Kentucky Postsecondary Education Data System (KPEDS) by improving the user experience of the institutional data submitters, implementing key internal data quality checks, and adding new reporting functions.

## **U.S. Education Delivery Institute**

Kentucky continues to show great progress in its work with Sir Michael Barber's U.S. Education Delivery Institute. Grants from various educational foundations in the U.S. have been underwriting the cost of this work that focuses on improving college access and student success. Jefferson Community and Technical College joined the Kentucky Delivery Network during the summer and sent representatives, along with EKU, Morehead, KSU, NKU, and KCTCS, to a special network meeting held on June 28 at KSU's Center for Sustainability of Farms and Families. EDI staff members were on hand to help campus teams work through a number of exercises intended to help improve the effectiveness of various student success strategies on campus. CPE staff, in conjunction with EDI, also created an online learning community where campus teams can share their own best practices, resources, and engage in student success discussions. Analytical work stemming from Kentucky's participation in EDI has stimulated many interesting discussions at recent meetings of the provosts, and will be discussed at an upcoming retreat. A number of the campus teams have generated or modified existing student success plans based upon various pieces of the EDI delivery framework to help achieve 2015 targets for degrees, graduation rates, and closing achievement gaps.

## **Project Graduate**

The Council's Project Graduate was one of three programs in the nation to earn a "Retention Excellence Award" from Noel-Levitz, a higher education consulting firm. According to Noel-Levitz's news release, Project Graduate has developed one of the "most successful, state-of-the-art retention programs in use today." Project Graduate is Kentucky's collaborative effort with public universities to recruit, retain, and graduate former students with 80 or more credit hours but no bachelor's degree. It offers a smooth transition and high-touch student services and incentives for busy, working adults who want to complete their degree.

## **Kentucky Adult Education GED® New Horizons**

The GED® test (an eight-hour paper-based test) has remained essentially unchanged since its inception in 1942. The use of technology has increased exponentially since that time and family wage jobs increasingly require at least some postsecondary education and 21st century skills. Consequently, GED Testing Service (GEDTS™), a public-private venture between the American Council on Education (ACE) and Pearson VUE, is instituting changes to the current 2002 series test administration (2012-13) and introducing a new edition of the GED® test in January 2014 to be solely delivered via Computer-Based-Testing (CBT).

In consultation with Kentucky Adult Education, GEDTS™ is launching CBT subsequent to the end of the 2002 GED® series in anticipation of introducing to educators and students the technological skills that will be necessary to take the new assessment in 2014. Additionally, the introduction of CBT will assist in preparing for testing demands and potential capacity issues as a consequent of the sunset of the 2002 GED® series.