

Kentucky Board of Education

June 5, 2013

Report from the President of the Council on Postsecondary Education

Clinical Preparation of Teachers

The Council on Postsecondary Education has awarded \$1.5 million to fund model clinical programs for teacher preparation in Kentucky. The three programs seek to improve the effectiveness of how universities provide teacher training.

The recipients include:

- Eastern Kentucky University, in partnership with Corbin Independent Schools;
- University of Louisville, in partnership with Jefferson County Public Schools; and
- Western Kentucky University, in partnership with Bowling Green Independent Schools and Simpson County Public Schools.

Each partnership will receive \$500,000 from an appropriation from the General Assembly to support the implementation of Senate Bill 1 (2009).

The partnerships will focus on developing clinical models that aim to improve P-12 student and teacher education candidate learning, facilitate the placement of teacher candidates in model P-12 settings, and provide professional development for pre-service and practicing teachers.

A guiding Blue Ribbon Panel report, *Transforming Teacher Education through Clinical Practice: A National Strategy to Prepare Effective Teachers*, was issued in 2011 by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). The report calls for dramatically different models and strategies for preparing teachers in clinical settings, including more rigorous accountability, strengthening candidate selection and placement, revamping curriculum, and incentives and staffing. Other strategies include supporting partnerships and expanding the knowledge base.

Kentucky's Education Professional Standards Board endorsed the NCATE report recommendations in 2011 and voted to become a state partner in NCATE's Alliance for clinical-based models. With this agreement, Kentucky became the 10th state in the nation to support this effort.

Graduation News

Kentucky's public and independent colleges and universities estimate that they have conferred 61,472 degrees and credentials during the 2012-13 academic year, with historic levels continuing at the associate, baccalaureate, master's and professional practice doctoral levels.

The *Preliminary 2012-13 Degrees Report* shows declines for research doctorates and in undergraduate and graduate certificates. A slight overall decrease of less than one percent is estimated for total degrees and credentials conferred this year since last year's historic total. Final numbers will be available this fall.

Degree highlights include:

- Undergraduate certificates at KCTCS declined 4.4 percent, echoing the enrollment decrease seen last fall as general economic conditions improve.
- Professional practice doctorates increased 4 percent in the past year. This category includes newer programs such as advanced-practice nursing, as well as law and many health-related degrees.
- Research doctorates dipped 14 percent this year, but this relatively small number of degree-earners progresses unevenly. Even with this dip, research doctorates have increased 36 percent in the past 10 years.

Looking back over the past 10 years, the number of degrees conferred statewide has grown substantially at all levels.

- The largest growth was seen at the associate degree level, due primarily to the expansion of applied associate programs at KCTCS. Twenty-four percent of young adults in Kentucky, ages 25-44, have an associate or higher degree.
- The next largest growth at the state level was among master's degrees and professional-practice doctorates, reflecting the expansion of Kentucky's highly-educated, professional workforce.

The full report, including institutional breakouts by degree level, is available at <http://cpe.ky.gov/info/degrees/2012-13prelimrpt.htm>.

Free GED Testing, May 15-July 31

The GED® test will be free in Kentucky May 15–July 31. Kentuckians taking the test during that timeframe will not have to pay the usual test fee, which will be paid by Kentucky Adult Education, a unit of the Council on Postsecondary Education.

The GED® test provides adults who did not finish high school with the opportunity to certify their attainment of high school-level academic knowledge and skills. Normally, the entire GED® test taken the conventional way on paper costs the test taker \$60; the fee for taking the entire computer-based GED® test is \$120, a cost set by the national GED Testing Service. Free GED® classes are available through local adult education programs in all 120 Kentucky counties.

It's particularly important for those without a high school diploma to pass all five parts of the GED® test this year because the GED® test will change January 1, 2014. In Kentucky, approximately 16,000 people have started taking the test but have not completed. All previous scores will expire and anyone who has started but not completed will have to start over. The last test date in Kentucky this year will be December 18, 2013.

Kentuckians interested in free classes and the time-limited free GED® testing should contact the adult education center in their county to discuss how to get started. To find the local adult education center, call (800) 928-7323 or visit www.KnowHow2GoKy.org and click on "Adults."

GEARUP Kentucky

GEAR UP Kentucky (GUK) has been engaged this spring in numerous activities to promote college readiness and student success as highlighted below.

- Operation Preparation: GUK schools celebrated Operation Preparation, a joint effort with KDE to bring community advisors into the school to meet one-on-one with students to discuss their college and career goals. <http://gearupky.org/2013opprep/>
- Transition Workshops: As a next step in a series of School Improvement Services, GUK hosted a series of regional Transition Workshops. The workshops brought together nearly 100 school administrators and staff from 40 GUK middle and high schools to discuss strategies for supporting GUK students' transition into high school. <http://gearupky.org/2013transitionworkshopsrecap/>
- Career Discovery Day @ NKU: GUK partnered with NKU Center for Integrative Natural Science and Mathematics to host its inaugural Career Discovery Day aimed at inspiring student interest in STEM careers. Two hundred seventh grade GEAR UP students visited multiple classroom labs on campus for hands-on sessions and demonstrations with NKU faculty in STEM fields. <http://gearupky.org/nkucdd/>
- National Superintendent Leadership Institute: GUK is sponsoring the superintendents of its five Select School Districts as participants in the first ever Superintendent Leadership Institute sponsored by the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships. The 10-month program is designed to engage a national learning community of superintendents in senior-level discussions and experiential training that focus on creating, sustaining, and strengthening the college-going culture in GEAR UP districts.
- GEAR UP Alumni Leadership Academy: Two GUK student alumni have been selected through a national competition to be among the 30 outstanding GEAR UP Alumni Leaders for the inaugural class of the GEAR UP Alumni Leadership Academy. This 12-month program trains and engages GEAR UP alumni from all across the country in advocacy and leadership toward creating positive change in education policy for their younger peers.
- GEAR UP Kentucky II Final Report: GUK released its final report for its previous grant program (2005–11) in early April. The report's Executive Summary highlights key findings of the report, which demonstrate GUK-II saw significant improvements in academic preparation between middle and high school in the areas of science, English,

and reading. The report shows that both the high school graduation rate and the college-going rate of GUK-II schools increased over the life of the grant, meeting and exceeding the stated objectives. More information will be provided in a GEAR UP update at the June CPE meeting.

College Planning Conference for Minority Students

Registration is underway for the 26th Annual Academically Proficient High School Junior and Senior Diversity Conference on the campus of Eastern Kentucky University, June 28-29.

Sponsored by the Council on Postsecondary Education and hosted this year by Eastern Kentucky University, the conference will acquaint minority students and their families with a wide range of college planning topics, including financial aid and scholarships, selecting a college and career, and developing skills for a successful transition to college.

A college fair with campus representatives from across the state will follow the sessions.

To participate, students must be classified as juniors or seniors during the 2013-2014 school year. There is no cost to participate in the conference; however, students, parents and guardians interested in overnight housing are asked to pay a \$15 per person fee.

For more information and to register, visit <http://cpe.ky.gov/diversityconference>. Registration closes June 21.