

**Kentucky Board of Education  
February 5, 2014**

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

**White House Summit for Postsecondary Education**

On January 16, President King represented Kentucky at the White House Summit on Postsecondary Education. The summit focused on helping more low-income students enroll and succeed in college. The national education summit was hosted by President Obama and the First Lady.

The invitation-only summit discussed ways that higher education, the private sector, city and state leaders, and philanthropy could come together to help connect more low-income students to college opportunities.

The higher education leaders attending the summit voluntarily pledged to do more to assist low-income students. These commitments were highlighted during the summit. Kentucky's plan calls for a wide range of ongoing efforts to meet strategic goals related to student success and readiness.

To read Kentucky's plan, visit page 30 of the Commitments to Action on College Opportunity at [http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/college\\_opportunity\\_commitments\\_1-16-2014\\_final.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/college_opportunity_commitments_1-16-2014_final.pdf)

**15 to Finish**

This campaign encourages Kentucky college students to graduate on time by completing at least 15 credits a semester, or 30 credit hours a year. The campaign will promote the benefits of completing a full course schedule, which include saving time and money, and getting into the workforce sooner. Lt. Governor Jerry Abramson joined higher education officials to launch the campaign on January 8, 2014, in the Capitol Rotunda. The event was very well attended. Governor Steven L. Beshear also issued a proclamation and declared January 8th as "15 to Finish Day" in Kentucky.

Beginning this spring to coincide with registration, public service radio and TV ads will run throughout Kentucky. Campuses will also launch their own marketing efforts, and promotions will include Web campaigns, social media, posters and direct messaging to students and staff. The initiative is part of a nationwide effort promoted by Complete College America, an organization whose mission is to increase the number of Americans with career certificates or college degrees. To find out more information about this initiative, visit <http://www.15tofinishky.org>.

### **Campus Presidents and Board Chairs Co-sign an Op-ed for Higher Education Funding**

As you have probably seen, an op-ed signed by all public university presidents and their board chairs, as well as the Council on Postsecondary Education president and board chair, appeared in major newspapers throughout Kentucky in mid-January. The op-ed called for a renewed commitment to higher education funding. In case you missed it, the op-ed is available on the Council's website at <http://cpe.ky.gov/commitment-highered>

### **Work Team on Credit-by-Examination and Dual Credit**

A statewide work team met to focus on issues related to dual credit (credit awarded at both the high school and college level), Advanced Placement (AP), and the College Level Examination Program (CLEP). The work group met on December 5, 2013 to discuss upcoming changes to AP and CLEP exams and dual credit policy implementation issues. A spring 2014 follow-up meeting will focus on updating institutional dual credit websites and a table with course credit students can earn for the new 2014 AP and CLEP exams.

### **Improved Broadband Access**

The CPE brokered a \$338,868 award to improve broadband access in rural parts of the state after completing several months of work and negotiation with the Governor's Office of Broadband Outreach and Development, and the regional stewardship programs at Eastern Kentucky University, Morehead State University and Murray State University. This is a direct outcome of the Rural Access Work Group and also lines up well with Objective 7 of the Strategic Agenda to work more closely with our communities to improve educational access and opportunity.

### **Annual Student Success Summit**

A Student Success Summit, hosted by the Council on Postsecondary Education, brings together faculty, staff, and administrators from across the Commonwealth, to learn about high-impact educational practices. This year's summit will focus on closing student achievement gaps for low income, underprepared, and under-represented student populations. The date of the spring 2014 summit is April 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> at the Louisville Marriot East Hotel.

## **Transfer Madness**

The Council on Postsecondary Education, in partnership with the state's colleges and universities, will sponsor Transfer Madness on March 5, 2014. The statewide virtual transfer fair will connect Kentucky Community and Technical College System students with transfer opportunities at all of Kentucky's state universities, 13 institutions with the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities, as well as a for-profit university. The fair will feature real-time chatting with transfer advisors [and](#) financial aid advisors, and present information about transfer programs and scholarships.

We are very pleased that Governor Steve Beshear will announce the details of Transfer Madness at a press conference February 25 [at](#) 2:30 p.m. EST in the Capitol Rotunda in Frankfort. This day is also the KCTCS advocacy day.

To attend the fair, students will log on to <http://transfermadness.org>, which is currently being updated. Students who register will be eligible for prizes. The Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) will also be available to chat about financial aid information specific to transfer students.