

Kentucky Board of Education

April 10, 2013

Report from the President of the Council on Postsecondary Education

Rural Access Work Group Update

The fourth meeting of the Rural Access Work Group was held April 4 at the offices of the Council on Postsecondary Education. CPE staff has been meeting individually with work group members to discuss potential recommendations for improving the educational attainment levels of underserved, rural areas of the state. The group will meet again May 15 and plans to report its findings and recommendations to the CPE at its June meeting.

Transfer Madness

Nearly 1,700 students made more than 4,300 campus visits during the state's first, entirely online transfer fair held March 6. Twenty-six of Kentucky's four-year universities and the campuses of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System participated in the 12-hour Transfer Madness event. Each campus staffed an online booth with their campus transfer and admissions staff. Students engaged in text chats with the representatives, downloaded information on the transfer process and transfer scholarships, and checked to see how their credits would transfer through the Council's KnowHow2Transfer.org website.

The collaborative event exceeded expectations. In the past, about 600 students participated on average in the on-site transfer fairs held at KCTCS. This year's participants included KCTCS students, high school students, and even students from other states and countries.

Governor Steve L. Beshear issued a proclamation proclaiming Wednesday, March 6, 2013, as Transfer Madness Day in Kentucky at a press conference at the Capitol February 20. House Bill 160, signed into law in 2010, called for eliminating the barriers students face in transferring their credits, and one of the barriers has been a lack of information, which Transfer Madness addressed. Next year's Transfer Madness will be held Wednesday, March 5, 2014.

Kentucky Student Success Summit

The second annual Kentucky Student Success Summit will be held April 15- 16 at the Louisville Marriott East. The purpose of the Summit is to stimulate conversations among faculty, staff, and administrators on how to improve institutional policies and practices to enhance student success. The theme of this year's summit is, "Building Partnerships between Academic and Student Affairs: Creating a Holistic Approach to Student Success." The Summit will feature nationally recognized experts who share evidence-based best practices to promote student learning and retention. Vincent Tinto, a noted expert on student retention, will be the keynote speaker. Joe Cuseo, a nationally renowned student success expert, and Jeff Selingo, editor at

large of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, will also be featured speakers. Breakout sessions will focus on best practices in developing and implementing first-year experiences and learning communities.

CPE Hosts Statewide Webinar on Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations (DFSCR)

On March 1, the Council hosted a statewide webinar to learn about the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations and to improve biennial review process. If audited, failure to comply with the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Regulations may cause an institution to forfeit eligibility for federal funding. The webinar provided a framework for assembling needed resources and conducting a biennial review. Questions addressed included whom to involve in the process, what data to collect, and how to overcome potential barriers that might arise.

The webinar featured Beth DeRicco, a national independent consultant. This webinar was funded by distillers through The Century Council and Kentucky's statewide partnership. The Century Council has assisted colleges and universities with innovative strategies to combat illegal underage drinking on campus communities across the nation and to promote responsible decision making about drinking or not drinking, more generally. The statewide partnership is a collaboration led by the University of Kentucky, the University of Louisville, Beam, and Brown-Forman to promote effective strategies and increase resources for campuses and communities.

Governor's Minority Student College Preparation Program

The annual GMSCPP Statewide Conference will be hosted by Morehead State University, June 11-12, 2013. Eastern Kentucky University will host the 26TH Annual Academically Proficient High School Junior and Senior Diversity Conference, June 27-28, 2013. Both conferences are expected to attract a diverse group of students from across the Commonwealth.

SREB Doctoral Scholars Program

The 2013 Teaching and Mentoring Institute will be held October 31-November 3, 2013, in Arlington, Virginia. The Kentucky program is implemented collaboratively by the Council, the University of Kentucky, and the University of Louisville to help students complete the doctorate more quickly and to encourage them to go into the professoriate. As of March 2013, 33 scholars are matriculating at Kentucky institutions. Thirty-two percent of these students are in the STEM-H areas. There are 69 graduates, and eight of the graduates have earned tenure.

KYOTE Writing Placement Exam

A KYOTE writing placement exam and training certification program for those scoring the exam have been developed. The exam represents a student writing sample and will be scored using the College Readiness Writing Rubric. By the end of April, the exam will be ready for use for placement purposes, including high school senior-year transitional programming and college placement. To ensure that the writing samples are scored in the same manner by all scorers, a

scorer certification process was created. The first scorer training was sponsored by the Council March 26-27. Fifty-seven high school and college educators participated in the training. Participating in the event were 39 high school teachers and district leaders from 17 school districts, 17 KCTCS and university faculty and placement testing administrators, and an adult education literacy leader. The exam and scorer training will be available free and online for any Kentucky school or college to use for readiness purposes.

CPE Staff Highlights

Council staff members continue to contribute their expertise in many strategic venues throughout Kentucky and the nation.

- Sherron Jackson was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award by Murray State's Office of Multicultural Affairs earlier this year. The award recognized Jackson's service to the Commonwealth for championing equal opportunities for Kentuckians.
- Dr. Aaron Thompson has co-authored the Ninth Edition of "The Sociological Outlook," recently released by Kendall Hunt Publishing Company. He continues to be a highly sought out speaker and recently delivered the following keynote addresses: the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships' Capacity-Building Workshop (National GEAR-UP Conference), the Commonwealth Commitment Summit in Lexington, and the Kentucky Public Procurement Association Annual meeting in Frankfort.
- Dr. Rana Johnson led the orientation session of the SREB Faculty Recruitment Fair at the SREB Institute on Teaching and Mentoring last fall. She was responsible for 61 universities and 144 recruitment representatives. In October, she will oversee and lead the faculty recruitment orientation session this fall in Arlington, Virginia.
- At the A2S/EDI Delivery Network Meeting in Baltimore in late February, CPE and Aaron Thompson were highlighted for their role in engaging campuses in gap closing and student success initiatives.