

KENTUCKY BOARD of EDUCATION
August 8, 2013
Report from the Secretary
Education and Workforce Development Cabinet

Kentucky Work Ready Communities

This initiative is having an impact throughout the commonwealth. With the nation's highest standards for workforce quality as established site selectors and business, Kentucky has certified 22 counties as Work Ready or Work Ready in Progress.

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| 6 | Certified Work Ready Counties |
| 16 | Certified Work Ready Communities in Progress |
| 4 | Communities Pending Certification |
| 36 | Communities In Process of Developing Applications |

School systems throughout the state have indicated this framework is helping them open new doors with business and industry as well as bring additional community leaders to the table to focus on education goals and skill development.

Kentucky Career Center Branding

Governor Beshear will officially announce the rebranding of Kentucky's workforce system on July 25th. Over the past several years the workforce system, including our education partners have focused on fulfilling the brand promise. Today, Kentucky Career Centers, complete with new signs, a new identity and a new customer-centric culture replace the former "unemployment offices" around the state. The Kentucky Career Center is also available on line through a new exciting, easy to navigate portal.

Earn & Learn Opportunities

The Kentucky Workforce Investment Board (KWIB) is working with the Kentucky Labor Cabinet and the BEAM Project Board to pilot a marketing campaign aimed at generating greater interest in apprenticeship, pre-apprenticeship, internship, tuition reimbursement and other earn and learn models among businesses, students, workers, parents and educators. The program should be ready to launch in late fall or early winter.

Kentucky's Culture of Entrepreneurship

With the Cabinet for Economic Development as a partner, the KWIB recently completed work on a series of recommendations to define and create a culture which values, promotes and encourages entrepreneurship as a viable career pathway in the commonwealth. A wide variety of partners will be engaged to address the needs of entrepreneurs across the state and some unique, outside the box ideas were included in the final report.

Early Childhood

On July 8th, the Governor announced the awarding of nearly \$1.2 million in funding for 62 Community Early Childhood Councils (CECCs) in 97 Kentucky counties to promote school readiness for children. The announcement is part of the Governor's continuing commitment to improving education and health services for Kentucky's youngest citizens. CECCs, which include local school district representatives, develop strategies for improving early childhood care and education by assessing the unique needs of each community and building upon current strengths to explore creative ways to meet those needs. This year's grant applications asked CECCs to use county-level data to develop collaborative strategies focused on improving school readiness.

On July 14, 2013, the Governor's Office of Early Childhood presented its Bi-Annual Report to the General Assembly and Governor Beshear. This is the first Bi-Annual Report provided since the reorganization of the Office of Early Childhood and the Early Childhood Advisory Council. You will find an electronic copy of the report at: <http://kidsnow.ky.gov/About-Kids-Now/Pages/Bi-Annual-Report.aspx>