

Kentucky Board of Education
December 4, 2013

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

Improving Educator Quality State Grant Program

The Improving Educator Quality State Grant Program awards grants to partnerships that deliver research-based professional development programs to P-12 teachers. To be eligible, a partnership must include a postsecondary institution's school of arts and sciences and its teacher preparation program, as well as at least one high-need local school district. The program enables states to fund training for teachers and administrators in any core academic subject.

The Kentucky Board of Education adopted the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) on August 8, 2013. The Next Generation Science Standards will lay out the core ideas and practices in science that students should master in preparation for college and careers. To that end, the Council is focusing Year 12 of the Improving Educator Quality State Grant Program on projects that fully integrate the Common Core Standards and Next Generation Science Standards and related assessments in a way that assists teachers in providing intervention in content areas for students in need of accelerated learning. The awarded projects are:

1. *Success in Algebra: Improving Special Education Teaching Practice* (University of Kentucky): \$120,000—Year 2
2. *Collaborative for Inquiry-Based Instruction* (Northern Kentucky University): \$120,000—Year 2
3. *Algebraic Dynamic Duo: Integrating Hands-On Learning and Problem Solving to Increase Student Achievement* (Morehead State University): \$120,000—Year 2
4. *FLIP: Using Video Podcasts for Mathematics Instruction and Intervention* (Northern Kentucky University): \$120,000—Year 2
5. *Integrating Engineering in the Sciences (IES)* (University of Kentucky): \$130,000
6. *Project-Based Investigations on Improving Water Quality in the Kentucky River Watershed* (University of Kentucky): \$130,000
7. *Enriching Science Learning through Simulations and Interdisciplinary Problem-Solving* (Murray State University): \$99,000

College and Career Readiness Budget Request

Students who are not academically prepared for college face greater obstacles to degree completion than those who enroll college ready. Developmental education lengthens a student's time-to-degree, increases costs, and consumes institutional resources. While Kentucky has made great strides in ensuring that a growing proportion of its students are ready for college, many still matriculate unprepared for the rigors of higher education. With passage of Senate Bill 1 (2009), college readiness moved to the forefront of Kentucky's postsecondary education policy agenda. Strengthening K-12 educator programs and expanding the role of higher education institutions in the delivery of professional development programs for teachers, school leaders, guidance counselors, adult education instructors, and faculty members are principal objectives of the Council's college readiness agenda.

- The Council staff recommends that the Council request appropriations of \$19,185,900 in fiscal year 2014-15 and \$19,185,900 in fiscal year 2015-16 to support college and career readiness and SB 1 initiatives at the public, four-year universities and KCTCS.

These funds will be distributed among the public four-year universities and KCTCS using a formula that allocates \$5.5 million of College and Career Pathway funds to institutions according to the number of middle and high schools in each institution's service region; \$6.0 million of teacher preparation funds among the public four-year universities according to each institution's share of total K-12 teachers produced; and \$7.7 million of developmental education funds among the public four-year universities and KCTCS according to each institution's share of total developmental education students served.

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.

Statewide Student Success Efforts

CPE staff convened several statewide meetings focused on increasing student success and closing achievement gaps.

- The Committee on Academic Quality met virtually with Bob Gonyea, associate director of the Indiana University Center for Postsecondary Research, to discuss the National Survey of Student Engagement. This is a survey used to gauge institutions' use of resources to ensure student engagement in academically purposeful activities. The Kentucky Student Success Network met with Education Delivery Institute facilitators,

who led activities related to planning successful strategies for closing the gap. Dr. Gary Brown, senior scholar at the Association of American Colleges and Universities, met with members of three newly formed Professional Learning Communities (PLC). His discussions with PLC faculty members from mathematics, statistics, and developmental mathematics units focused on improving student learning through authentic assessment.

- College Readiness leads met to discuss developmental education models with Paolo DeMaria of Education First. Tim Vick, Julie McLaughlin and Diane Stump, national experts on the First Year Experience, traveled to Kentucky to hold full-day workshops focusing on implementing a high-quality First Year Experience program.

College Readiness Outreach

As the primary outreach unit of the Council, GEAR UP Kentucky works with Council leadership, participating schools, and multiple partners and agencies to strengthen the college-going culture in Kentucky. Two key components of this outreach include coordination of a statewide college access media campaign and the monthly distribution of the GEAR UP Gazette. Through participation in the Kentucky Broadcasters Association's (KBA) Public Education Partnership program, TV and radio PSAs featuring messages about the steps to college and resources available to help students and parents plan, apply and pay for college are aired statewide on member TV and radio stations. These TV and radio spots point viewers/listeners to the KnowHow2GOKY.org website for information about college planning.

Value of Kentucky Broadcasters Association Public Education Partnership with CPE/GUK

Month	TV spots (30 sec)	Value	Radio Spots (30 sec)	Value
April-13	1,746	\$42,812	6,766	\$111,445
May-13	789	\$58,045	11,009	\$183,527
June-13	833	\$55,599	10,946	\$200,393
July-13	787	\$52,602	10,568	\$202,240
August-13	529	\$32,994	9,886	\$195,815
Total	4,684	\$242,052	49,175	\$893,420

The KnowHow2GOKy.org website also is highlighted on multiple CPE/GUK print publications, on visuals posted in GUK schools, and on the GUK website and social media channels. This effort is highly impactful because of the multi-tiered messaging approach and because it reached outside the school building to reach entire GUK communities with college going and preparation messages.

The GEAR UP Gazette, another key college readiness outreach tool, is a monthly four-page newspaper insert in the *Lexington Herald-Leader* written to help inform Kentucky students and parents about the importance of and steps to college readiness. In addition to being included in all issues of the newspaper statewide, a copy of the paper is made available for each GUK

student and delivered directly to participating schools August through April. Each issue focuses on a specific theme related to college readiness and success, such as test preparation, student success skills, and mentoring. GUK College and Career Advisors and school staff distribute the newspapers to GUK students to read and share with their parents. Teachers also are encouraged to use it as a learning resource in the classroom to enhance lesson plans. So far this school year, 77,241 GEAR UP Gazettes have been distributed statewide each month, with more than 11,800 individual copies given to GUK students monthly.

McDonald's GED promotion

McDonald's restaurants in 53 counties are joining forces to encourage GED attainment with in-store promotions funded by the restaurant owners. Beginning the week of October 28, 2013, customers at restaurants represented by McDonald's of Central and Southeastern Kentucky, Paducah Co-op, Tri-State Co-op and Tri-Cities Co-op are seeing tray liners featuring a message encouraging the attainment of a GED test credential and emphasizing the end of the current GED test and the launch of the 2014 GED test in January. This is the eighth consecutive year McDonald's owner/operators have partnered with Kentucky Adult Education to promote GED attainment. The campaign was initiated by Joe Graviss, a Central Kentucky owner/operator and a member of the Council on Postsecondary Education. The project began in three of his restaurants in Franklin and Woodford counties and has grown exponentially through his leadership.

CPE Staff News

CPE staff members continue to make an impact in Kentucky and across the nation. Sherron Jackson was honored by Kentucky State University with the Tradition of James Sheldon Hathaway Achievement Award. Named after the university's third president, the award recognizes Jackson's commitment and leadership to ensuring college access to underserved populations.

- Lee Nimocks and Melissa Bell participated in the Complete College America Annual Convening held October 28-29 in Salt Lake City. This year's convening included discussions with state officials, institutional leaders and faculty who are leading change across states and campuses. Emerging best practices based on default pathways, structured programs of study and choice architecture were also explored. Senate Education Chair Mike Wilson, Representative Jim Glenn, KCTCS Director of Policy and Research Christina Whitfield, and Kathi Marshall with the Governor's Budget Office joined the Kentucky team at the conference.
- Dr. Aaron Thompson delivered the keynote address to the New Jersey Association of New Student Advocates on October 24 in New Jersey. "From College Readiness to College Completion: Pitfalls, Potholes and Pathways" was the title of his remarks. Thompson also spoke at the Annual GrantMakers for Education Conference held in Houston on October 29. It was a presentation with KDE to funders on Kentucky's success around delivery of the college readiness and college competition agenda. EDI chose Kentucky because of our close relationship with K-12 and our success.

Thompson's remarks addressed the state's role in leading change and improving student success.

- The 2013 SREB Doctoral Scholars Program Institute on Teaching and Mentoring took place October 31-November 3 in Arlington, Virginia. Dr. Rana Johnson conducted the Faculty Recruitment Orientation for the 62 participating colleges and universities. All of Kentucky's public postsecondary institutions participated to assist with recruitment of diverse faculty members to their respective campuses.
- Allen Lind was the state representative to the Annual SREB Electronic Campus and the SREB Technology Cooperative meetings in Tampa. He also participated as an evaluator for the 2013 Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities' Technology Awards. Lind is newly appointed to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Direct to Degree grant program at KCTCS.
- Cheryl King and Allen Lind recently presented on Kentucky's Commonwealth College as a partner state at the Lumina/Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education's Adult College Completion Network meeting in St. Louis.