

**Kentucky Board of Education
April 9, 2014**

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

CPE April Meeting

The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education will meet on April 28 and 29 at Murray State University. The “Stronger by Degrees” agenda report will focus on college readiness. The meeting agenda will be posted at <http://www.cpe.ky.gov/about/cpe/meetings/2014/default.htm>.

Postsecondary Enrollment

Student enrollment at Kentucky’s public four-year universities reached an all-time high of 128,598 students last fall, continuing a decade of steady enrollment growth. Since 2003, enrollment at public four-year universities grew by 9 percent or by 10,672 students, according to a report issued by the Council.

While the four-year public sector posted gains, the two-year public sector declined. Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) saw a 4.7 percent drop last fall with 92,365 students enrolled. This decline reflects national patterns of two-year colleges that are more closely aligned to economic forces. As the job market improves, an increasing number of students return to the workplace.

For the 20 private, nonprofit four-year institutions, fall enrollment held steady from one year ago. Statewide, 36,195 students were enrolled in this sector, up an impressive 41.8 percent since 2003, with the biggest gain seen in graduate-level enrollment, up 132.5 percent.

To view the report for the public colleges and universities, visit <http://cpe.ky.gov/enrollmentreport>.

2014 Student Success Summit

The Kentucky Student Success Summit provides faculty, staff and administrators an opportunity to learn from leading student success experts and to engage in stimulating discussions with colleagues from across the state. The summit features nationally-recognized experts who share evidence-based best practices to promote student learning and retention. The theme of this year’s summit is **"Every Student Counts: Holding High Expectations for All."** The summit will be April 7 and 8 at the Louisville Marriott East.

This year's summit theme, "Every Student Counts," underscores the importance of recognizing issues related to academic success for all of Kentucky's students, especially for underrepresented minorities, low-income students, and underprepared students. Concurrent sessions will focus on the roles of academic advising, undergraduate research, and culturally competent classroom instruction in promoting success for all students. Featured speakers for this year's summit include **Kati Haycock**, President of The Education Trust, **Deborah Santiago**, Chief Operating Officer and Vice President for Policy & Research of Excelencia for Education, **Sandra Gregerman**, Director of the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program at the University of Michigan and former Chair of the Council on Undergraduate Research, and **Blane Harding**, Director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs at the University of Kansas and co-author of the National Academic Advising Association's publication "Cultivating Potential in At-Risk Students"

Additional information about the summit can be found at http://cpe.ky.gov/news/events/student_success_summit.htm.

Transfer Madness

The Council on Postsecondary Education, in partnership with the state's colleges and universities, sponsored Transfer Madness on March 5, 2014. More than 1,500 students registered for the 12-hour event designed to connect them with transfer advisors, scholarship information, financial aid, and more at statewide institutions. KCTCS, along with 22 of Kentucky's four-year institutions, CPE, and the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority, collaborated for Transfer Madness. Of the more than 1,500 who attended the online event, 68 percent were from Kentucky and 50 percent were current college students. The event also drew more than 400 high school students.

Campuses have stepped up recruiting and advising, and Transfer Madness is a key strategy to increase the number of students who transition to a four-year campus and persist to graduation. Transfer Madness supports the improvement of the quality of Kentucky's workforce by increasing the number of students who transfer from KCTCS colleges to four-year institutions. One of the goals of House Bill 160 (2010) is to eliminate the barriers students encounter when trying to transfer to a four-year institution, and one of the barriers is a lack of information and engagement between students and transferring institutions.

Students who missed out on Transfer Madness are encouraged to contact the transfer advisors at the four-year campuses of their choice. Students can also check to see how their general education credits transfer and count toward a bachelor's degree by visiting <http://www.KnowHow2Transfer.org>.

Governor's Minority Student College Preparation Program Statewide Conference (GMS CPP)

The 14TH Annual GMS CPP Statewide Conference will be hosted by Eastern Kentucky University on June 25 and 26, 2014. Two hundred students, from across Kentucky, are expected to participate in STEM-H activities.

GMS CPP Academically Proficient High School Junior and Senior Diversity Conference

The 27TH Annual Academically Proficient High School Junior and Senior Diversity Conference will be hosted by Murray State University on June 13 and 14, 2014. Current high school sophomores and juniors should be encouraged to explore information about the conference at <http://cpe.ky.gov/news/calendar/statewide/acadprof.htm>.

GEAR UP Kentucky Releases Four-year School Improvement Services Plan

GEAR UP Kentucky (GUK) defines a college-going culture by using the GUK Framework for a College-Going Culture which defines the five attributes of a college-going culture: Aspiration, Rigor, Expectation, Accountability and Sustainability. Research-based strategies are embedded in this framework as GUK works to intentionally implement services and activities. The program provides three categories of services to advance the mission of the program: Direct Services to Students and Parents, Statewide Services, and School Improvement Services. Each category of service includes a set of strategies designed to ensure students are college and career savvy, academically ready, confident of success, socially and emotionally ready; and financially literate and prepared to meet college costs.

In February, GUK announced the 2013-2017 School Improvement Services Plan that outlines the support, technical assistance, training, professional development, and resources that will be provided to participating schools to build and sustain a college-going culture. The plan provides a range of support to improve student academic performance, including technical assistance, training, and professional development services. School improvement services are comprised of four overall strategies:

- 1. Build a College-Going Culture for All** - *Assists teachers and administrators in establishing a college-going culture and climate in GUK schools through changes in policy and practice.* One example of this strategy is school benchmarking activities that include school and classroom walkthroughs to collect data on the presence of a college going culture. Findings of this process are used to inform the development of school sustainability plans that target areas of need with specific plans of action.

- 2. Increase Capacity to Implement Kentucky Core Academic Standards (KCAS) -**
Provides school personnel training and professional development to improve instruction, increase student academic readiness and expand leadership capacity. One such example of services provided is the 2013 Teacher/Leader Summer Academy, where nearly 100 teachers and administrators participated in a four-day workshop focused on aligning instructional design to KCAS and practicing student-centered instruction.
- 3. Use Data to Change Policy and Plan Instruction -***Develops a process for data gathering and supports accurate analysis and comprehensive planning for a college-going culture.* Services here include providing technical assistance to schools to use student assessment data to inform instructional practices and integrate comprehensive student advising.
- 4. Adopt and Implement Structures for Sustainability -***Builds a support structure that enables GUK schools to implement strategies for sustainable change by the end of the GUK 3.0 project (2016-2017).* In February 2014, GUK sponsored a series of regional Sustainability Summits to assist to principals, guidance counselors, and district-level instructional leaders in refining sustainability plans and reviewing and receiving feedback on those plans. The process emphasizes using school data to inform instruction and connecting sustainability plans with the Comprehensive School Improvement Plans (CSIPs).