

Kentucky Board of Education
December 3, 2014
Report from the Secretary
Education and Workforce Development Cabinet

1. Governor Steve Beshear appointed Beth Brinly as deputy secretary of the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet, her new role in the cabinet from her position as commissioner of the Department of Workforce Investment.

In her role as workforce investment commissioner, Beth spent the past four years overseeing the implementation of the Kentucky Career Center re-branding including programs such as WorkReady Communities, Industry Partnerships, High Impact Workforce Investment Boards, Sector Strategies and the Kentucky Skills Network. These workforce strategies have moved Kentucky to a national leadership role in advising on building a world-class talent pipeline.

Beth has extensive experience with federal programs including the Workforce Investment Act, Wagner -Peyser and the Trade Act. Prior to becoming commissioner, Brinly was chief of the Division of Workforce Investment in the Employment and Training Administration in the regional office of the U.S. Department of Labor in Philadelphia for more than five years.

2. The Opportunity Youth Summit was held in Louisville on November 17th and 18th featuring Keynote speaker First Lady, Jane Beshear. The summit brought education, workforce, and business partners together to identify ways to bridge gaps and keep youth engaged - especially those at greatest risk of dropping out of the education and workforce pipeline. The goal of the summit was to determine the skills, tools and resources at risk youth need in order to be successful in the workforce. There were over 200 in attendance.
3. In August 2014, Kentucky was selected as one of fourteen states to participate in the NGA Policy Academy on Aligning the Education and Training Pipeline to the Needs of the Economy. The purpose of this Policy Academy is to support states and territories working to better align their education and training systems to the needs of their economy. Kentucky will receive ongoing technical assistance from the NGA Center for Best Practices and will have the opportunity to learn from the selected states and other national experts during the course of the 18 month Policy Academy. The state leadership team includes representatives from the Governor's Office, the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet, the Cabinet for Economic Development, KCTCS, the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, Kentucky Association of Manufacturers, the Council on Postsecondary Education, the Kentucky Department of Education, business and industry and others.

Key features of our state action plan are based around 4 key components. Vision - Create a world-class talent pipeline to fuel economic growth in Kentucky by aligning workforce, education and economic development strategies which enhance sustainable economic and job growth to improve the lives of Kentuckians. Data - Utilize data to provide reports on a number of areas including feedback about the performance of high school graduates after they go to

college, developing the Kentucky County Profiles, and information on the outcome of teacher preparation, college, adult education, and other programs. Partnership - Align policies, strategies, data and resources to attract and retain business while developing the talent pipeline to fuel economic growth. Resources and Incentives - For quite some time, workforce system partners have intertwined federal formula resources including Workforce Investment Act, Wagner-Peyser, Trade Adjustment Assistance, Reemployment Assistance, Rehabilitation Services, Adult Education, Perkins and other resources.

Action to date: The team has held work session meetings and has participated in a multi-state Policy Academy in Seattle, Washington. Partners are working closely together and with NGA to implement our state action plan.

4. SNAP E&T Proposal Summary

A close partnership among DCBS, DWI, EKCEP, KYAE, and KCTCS jointly developed and submitted a \$25M proposal to provide comprehensive services to SNAP recipients in the Promise Zone region of Eastern KY. The common goal is to improve participants' employment and wages and reduce reliance on SNAP benefits. Unique features of the *Paths 2 Promise* proposal include:

- A system of ongoing, coordinated, **team-based case management** to support participants throughout a process of recruitment, assessment, education/training and work-based learning, culminating in employment at a family –sustaining wage;
- An additional enhancement of embedded **success coaches** at all employment and training sites to ensure participants are successful in placements and in obtaining supportive services;
- The creation of an **Employer Resource Network** (ERN) under which local employers (15 submitted letters of interest with the proposal) in targeted industry sectors develop common strategies to assist workers, and share a rotating workplace-based success coach who assists incumbent workers and new employees in accessing training, work supports, and ultimately in improving retention , skills and advancement opportunities;
- A **Collective Impact** approach and infrastructure to ensure that all partners actively collaborate to identify and meet specific and measurable goals and to deliver effective services to participants.