

Kentucky Board of Education  
August 4, 2016  
Report from the Secretary  
Education and Workforce Development Cabinet

Recently we had the pleasure of visiting Lee County Schools to celebrate their partnership with Hazard Community & Technical College to offer adult workforce training at the Lee County Area Technology Center. Starting in September, the school's construction and automotive technology facilities will train students by day and adults by night — offering convenience to postsecondary students, leveraging use of available resources, and expanding dual-credit opportunities for high school students in Lee, Owsley and Wolfe counties. Lee County's announcement demonstrates precisely the kind of alignment we hope to achieve with the Kentucky Work Ready Skills Initiative.

The Work Ready Skills Initiative is a \$100 million bond program that will grant funds for construction, renovation, equipment and marketing for projects that train Kentuckians for skills in demand by employers across the state. Partnerships of employers, high schools and postsecondary education institutions will submit detailed plans to develop talent training pipelines with a regional focus on Kentucky's most important industry sectors.

Successful applications will demonstrate employer and sector demand, inclusion of both student and adult training, and a strong local match of the Commonwealth's investment. We are seeking dynamic partnerships to craft innovative plans to meet the needs of Kentucky's employers and build tomorrow's workforce.

Applications are available on our Cabinet's website at <http://EWDC.ky.gov>, and the first round of pre-applications are due August 12. More information is available there, and questions can be emailed to [workreadyskills@ky.gov](mailto:workreadyskills@ky.gov).