

Kentucky Board of Education
December 6, 2017
Report from the President of the Council on Postsecondary Education

Upcoming Council meetings

February 1-2, 2018 (CPE retreat and regular meeting)

CPE November meeting

The Council on Postsecondary Education held a business meeting on November 3, 2017, at Elizabethtown Community and Technical College.

Action Items:

- The Board approved the 2018-20 biennial budget recommendation, which includes increases for performance funding, special initiatives, and Bucks for Brains funding. The performance funding request calls for an overall 2 percent increase in operating funds, or \$18.9 million, in the first year (2018-19), and \$36.5 million, or 4.1 percent, in the second year (2019-20) for campus operations. The recommendation also seeks \$47.2 million each year of the biennium to offset campuses' mandated increases of about 70 percent for KERS employer-paid contributions. In addition to operating funds, the Council's budget request includes \$8.2 million for annual debt service in 2019-20, recurring in subsequent years, for \$90 million in state bonds to support funding for the Bucks for Brains program. This program would double the total investment in postsecondary education research by requiring a dollar-for-dollar match of state funds with institutional funds from external sources.
- The Board postponed action on the campus diversity, equity, and inclusion plans agenda item to more closely examine campus targets set in the various required metrics.

Reports:

- Dr. Bob Davies, president of Murray State University; Dr. Timothy Caboni, president of Western Kentucky University; and Dr. Jay Box, president of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, presented their annual performance reports, which highlighted baseline data for the metrics in the statewide strategic agenda for postsecondary and adult education, "Stronger by Degrees," as well as the targets and strategies they will pursue.
- The Board received an overview of an audit report from the Executive Committee that showed no findings.
- The Board heard reports on the CPE work plan, dual credit and GEAR UP Kentucky, which is ending after an unsuccessful bid for continuation funding from the U.S. Department of Education.

Council meeting materials are available at <http://cpe.ky.gov/aboutus/cpemeetings.html>

Kentucky hits historic high for degrees, credentials conferred

Kentucky's public and independent colleges and universities conferred a record 70,146 degrees and credentials during the 2016-17 year, up 6.6 percent from the previous year and a 34.8 percent gain from 10 years ago. The report shows one-year increases for career-oriented certificates and degrees at the associate, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels.

STEM-H (science, technology, engineering, math and health) credentials increased 7 percent from the previous year. STEM-H credentials accounted for more than a third of all credentials awarded in Kentucky.

Tables and interactive charts are available at the following links on the Council's website:

<http://cpe.ky.gov/data/degrees.html>

<http://cpe.ky.gov/data/index.html>

Council explores internship opportunities for students

CPE hosted a meeting with state higher education and government leaders to explore the Southwestern Ohio Council for Higher Education (SOCHE) Intern Program. This meeting was part of an exploratory process to see if this model could increase the number of paid internships available to students in Kentucky. The SOCHE model is different than most: the organization acts as employer, saving businesses money and resources by managing the application process, hiring and payroll. The organization also mentors both employers and interns, improving the intern experience for all involved.

As a next step, a feedback survey was distributed to meeting participants. The Council will continue to evaluate similar programs in other states, including Colorado and Indiana.

Council, KYAE present to legislators

On October 26, CPE presented to the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue Education Subcommittee. The presentation included ideas from Kentucky's college presidents to adjust some statutory requirements that would increase the efficiency of campus operations. In addition, a review of asset preservation and renovation of Kentucky's campus facilities was provided. This review serves as a precursor to the Council's budget request, which includes funding to renovate existing facilities.

Also included in the presentation was an update by Kentucky Adult Education. Information shared included the successes and challenges of Kentucky's GED efforts, and the program's increased focus on workforce needs.

Council hosts statewide conference for campus PR and marketing staff

CPE hosted a professional development day for public relations and marketing staff at Kentucky's colleges and universities on October 18 at WKU. "Shared Energy: 2017 Showcase of Best Practices" featured presentations on building a campus brand promise and identity, developing consistent PR messaging across the campus, and living out the brand promise.

Thirty-three attended from seven universities, as well as KCTCS and AIKCU campuses. CPE will follow up next year with a session on crisis communications.

Project Graduate in full swing

Kentucky's educational attainment goal has brought a renewed focus on the need to re-enroll and graduate former students through the Project Graduate program, an adult completer program for those who left college with 80 or more credit hours.

This fall, Project Graduate advisors at each public university are contacting former students through direct mail, emails, phone calls, social media and other promotions to encourage them to return. The program consists of a concierge approach with incentives and personalized services, which vary by institution.

The Council launched a new website to highlight each campus program and advisor contact information.

More than 2,500 adult stop-outs have graduated through the program. Project Graduate is the winner of the 2012 Noel-Levitz Retention Award for Excellence.

CPE's Aaron Thompson presents at Collaboratory on Postsecondary Affordability

Aaron Thompson was a featured speaker at the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence's Collaboratory on Postsecondary Affordability on October 17. Dr. Thompson presented an overview of the factors influencing college affordability in Kentucky and discussed current statewide and campus efforts to address this issue.

KYAE Vice President speaks at multiple venues

Reecie Stagnolia, vice president for adult education, was the keynote speaker on October 25 at the 2017 Commission on Adult Basic Education (COABE) Virtual Conference. His topic was "Using Data for Building a Business Case of Support for Adult Education." During the National Center for Families Learning Conference, held October 9-11 in Tucson, Reecie co-presented two sessions, "Adult Education: An Investment in America's Future" and "Educate and Elevate Public Awareness Campaign." On September 20, Reecie presented "Why is Adult Education Important?" at the Illinois Community College Board's Forum for Excellence. Reecie serves as chair of the National Council of State Directors of Adult Education (NCSDAE).

CPE invited to participate in national conversations about adult learners

CPE's Lee Nimocks and Sue Patrick recently attended a Complete College America convening focused on improving postsecondary opportunity and success for non-traditional age learners who often have to balance the competing demands of work, family and education. Lee Nimocks was invited by the Education Commission of the States to participate in a similar conversation about adult learners, with a specific focus on improving financial aid opportunities and developing innovative approaches to student learning. Kentucky's past work supporting adult re-entry and completion through programs like Project Graduate has been recognized for raising the visibility of adult learner challenges and successes.

President King out and about

President King completed the last of his day-long campus tours, with visits to Southeast Community and Technical College on November 9 and Big Sandy Community and Technical College on November 28. These visits have enabled the Council to learn more about the issues affecting each campus and to engage in discussions with key local business and workforce leaders, legislators, campus leadership, faculty and staff, and students

President King also attended the Lumina Foundation's convening on "Quality, Equity and Accountability," which addressed the reforms in federal policy, accreditation policy, state policy and institutional and state system policy. He will be working with colleges in Virginia to establish an inaugural meeting with SACSCOC (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges), Kentucky's regional accreditor, with all 11 states in the SACS accrediting region this December.