

**Kentucky Board of Education**  
**December 5, 2018**  
**Report from the President of the Council on Postsecondary Education**

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**Upcoming Council Meetings**

The next business meeting will be held February 21-22 at the Council on Postsecondary Education. (CPE retreat is on February 21, followed by a regular business meeting on February 22.)

**CPE Board Actions**

CPE held its final meeting of the year on November 16 at Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College in Bowling Green, Kentucky, where it took the following actions:

- Approved a two-year contract for Dr. Aaron Thompson as the fourth president of the CPE. The Council delegated approval of an incentive bonus plan to the Executive Committee.
- Approved three new academic programs: a Bachelor of Science in Civil and Sustainability Engineering (CIP 14.0801) at Murray State University; a Bachelor of Arts in Law (CIP 22.0000) at Northern Kentucky University; and a Master of Science in Exercise Science (CIP 31.0505) at Northern Kentucky University.

**CPE Board Reports**

- The presidents of Kentucky's eight public universities presented on their institutions' annual performance on CPE key indicators including degrees produced; retention, graduation and completion rates; success of underprepared students in gateway courses one year after entry; and average number of credit hours earned by undergraduates. The presentations afforded Council members the opportunity to engage in productive Q&A sessions with the presidents. Overall, six-year graduation rates have improved, and achievement gaps for low-income and underrepresented minority students are narrowing. Bachelor's degree production is up for the fourth consecutive year. However, there were no significant gains in retention, and preliminary fall data indicate that enrollment is down. Average net price among the comprehensive universities has increased, although the amount is still below national and SREB averages.
- CPE staff updated the board on a partnership with QA Commons to pilot a new certification program to signal to employees that college graduates have mastered essential employability skills needed in a knowledge-based, global economy. This certification, called Essential Employability Qualities or EEQ, will be rolled out at Bluegrass Community and Technical College, Gateway Community and Technical College, Jefferson Community and Technical College, Kentucky State University, Murray

State University, and the University of Kentucky. Each institution will choose at least three academic programs to undergo EEQ certification. The programs will be evaluated on criteria related to graduate preparation, career support services, employer engagement, student and alumni engagement, and public information. Programs that meet all of the criteria will be EEQ certified in spring 2020. The six participating campuses will work together in a learning community to share resources and good practices. A steering committee comprised of institutional leadership and key employers in the state will guide the initiative.

- CPE was awarded a \$24.5 million federal GEAR UP grant to increase the number of low-income students graduating from high school and enrolling in college. The program is designed to serve a minimum of 10,000 students in middle and high schools in at least 10 school districts, and will continue to provide support through their first year of college. This is the fourth statewide GEAR UP grant awarded to CPE.

#### **The Governor's Office and CPE to Host Higher Education Symposium**

Governor Matt Bevin, in partnership with Council on Postsecondary Education, has invited the leadership of Kentucky's public and private colleges and universities to attend a half-day postsecondary education symposium on December 18 at the Louisville Marriott East. This invitation-only event will feature Michael Crow, president of Arizona State University, who will discuss his model for reinventing postsecondary education institutions for the 21st century. Attendees will have the opportunity to network and participate in the discussion through breakout sessions with colleagues from other campuses.

#### **Kentucky Awarded \$400,000 Lumina Grant for Adult Students**

In October, CPE was awarded a \$400,000 grant from the Lumina Foundation and the State Higher Education Executive Organization (SHEEO) to enroll more underrepresented, low-income adults in high-demand postsecondary certificate and degree programs through the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship program. Kentucky will partner with three KCTCS campuses to pilot enhanced academic supports and wrap-around services for WRKS adult students. The grant also will support new marketing and outreach efforts to raise awareness of this scholarship.

#### **Veterinary and Optometry Contract Spaces Review**

The 2018 Budget Bill tasked CPE staff with facilitating the work of two groups to review the state's veterinary medicine and optometry contract spaces programs. Over the years, these two programs (which are not offered at Kentucky public universities) have allowed Kentucky students to attend out-of-state programs at in-state rates. The two work groups (comprised of veterinary and optometry professionals) are finalizing reports (to be submitted December 1) that will provide recommendations to the General Assembly for administering the program.

#### **CPE Holds Second Annual Training for New Board Members**

CPE has moved its annual state-level board member orientation and training session to December 18, following the Higher Education Symposium. CPE or campus board members

appointed by the Governor or elected by their campus since October 2017 are invited to attend the session to complete their statutory requirement (per House Bill 15 of 2016).