

## President's Report for KBE Meeting

August 2024

- CPE and its affiliate, the Kentucky Student Success Collaborative (KYSSC), are hosting the inaugural Leadership exChange cohort beginning in September. The Leadership exChange is a year-long change program designed to provide participants with a comprehensive set of skills and tools to lead strategic change initiatives, foster innovation and drive continuous improvement within their institutions. Throughout the program, participants will learn about and apply various methodologies that center the student in the design and implementation of solutions to significantly improve student success outcomes. More than 30 campus leaders from public, private and Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) institutions will participate in five workshops throughout the academic year, culminating in a team-based project. To learn more, visit <https://kystudentsuccess.org/leadership-exchange/>
- The latest CPE Progress Report shows that Kentucky's public colleges and universities made significant gains in undergraduate enrollment and retention during the 2022-23 academic year. Enrollment at the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) climbed 6.5% from fall 2022 to fall 2023, from 73,956 to 78,771 students. Undergraduate enrollment at public universities was up 1.6% over the same period, from 93,926 to 95,472 students. Retention rates measure how many first-year students are still enrolled in college the following year. For the first time, the average statewide retention rate surpassed 80% at public universities (80.7%) and 60% at KCTCS (60.8%). The report can be downloaded on CPE's website at <https://cpe.ky.gov/data/reports/2024progressreport.pdf>
- On July 25, CPE hosted over 60 career development officers from Kentucky campuses at our inaugural career development convening. Keynote speaker Chris Miciek from Thomas Jefferson University addressed some of the challenges students face in securing meaningful employment after graduation and highlighted opportunities for career development services to be proactive. This effort is part of CPE's workforce development initiatives.

- CPE President Aaron Thompson has had a productive summer:
  - Last week he was awarded the 2024 Exceptional Leader Award from the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO). The award honors the top higher education leader in the 50 states.
  - The July/August issue of Trusteeship Magazine (Association of Governing Boards) includes a feature article co-authored by President Thompson and John King (NJ) focusing on effective strategies to advance Black learners.
  - President Thompson was featured in a cover story for the July issue of [Diverse Issues in Higher Education](#). The story highlighted President Thompson's personal story, as well as his lifelong commitment to education and equal opportunity.
- The next CPE Board Meeting will occur on September 16 at the Hyatt Regency in Lexington, Kentucky, in conjunction with CPE's Postsecondary Education Trusteeship Conference, September 16-17.