

CPE President's Report to KBE Board
March 26-27, 2025

Higher Education Bills: As the 2025 session of the General Assembly draws to a close, the following bills will have an impact on public postsecondary institutions in the Commonwealth.

- **HB 4** builds on national anti-DEI momentum with KY-specific legislation banning public college and university (and CPE) DEI offices and training, as well as the use of affirmative action in hiring and deciding scholarships and vendor selection. It also prohibits higher education institutions from requiring courses whose “primary purpose is to indoctrinate participants with a discriminatory concept” and CPE from approving programs with an indoctrination purpose. The bill includes extensive reporting requirements from CPE and the campuses.
- **SB 77** responds to various requests from comprehensive universities to offer doctoral level programs currently not allowed by statute. The legislation empowers the CPE to approve new doctoral programs, including Ph.D., veterinary medicine, and osteopathic programs, at comprehensive universities if they meet specific performance criteria. It also requires CPE to review any new doctoral program at least once every five years to ensure ongoing compliance and quality.
- **HB 303** (Heroes to Healers) calls on CPE to coordinate the development of pathways for military healthcare personnel to transition into civilian healthcare roles. The goal of the legislation is to address workforce shortages by recognizing skills acquired during military service.
- **HB 424** calls for regular performance evaluations for presidents and faculty at public postsecondary institutions.

New ALDI Cohort Selected: Sixteen faculty and professional staff members from public universities and community and technical colleges across Kentucky were selected to participate in the 2025 cohort of the Academic Leadership Development Institute (ALDI), coordinated by CPE. ALDI is a year-long series of professional development opportunities for faculty and staff members who are on track for career advancement in higher education. Members of the new ALDI cohort were nominated by their respective postsecondary institutions based on their leadership ability, dedication to higher education and interest in professional advancement. Participants typically are early in their academic careers with limited administrative experience.

Futuriti Update: Since launching Futuriti, a website focused on college and career exploration, 8,500 individual visitors have accessed the site. The YouTube promotional video has been watched over 8,600 times, and Futuriti posts on X have received about 3,000 impressions. CPE staff also have presented a Futuriti demo to 27 different groups.

Statewide Mental Health Strategy: The Kentucky Student Success Collaborative (KYSSC), an initiative of the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE), recently released [a statewide strategy](#) to address growing mental health challenges on Kentucky campuses. KYSSC worked with the Jed Foundation, a national non-profit dedicated to preventing suicide and building resilience in teens and young adults, and Kentucky postsecondary institutions on its development.

CPE Board Meeting: The next CPE board meeting will be held on April 17 at 1:30 p.m. ET at Northern Kentucky University.