

KY COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION BUSINESS MEETING



Nov 13, 2020 – 9:00 AM

ZOOM teleconferencing for Committee members

Livestream video for public: <https://youtu.be/aZXDkTJOC20>

**Indicates action item*

I.	Call to Order and Roll Call	
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DRAFT MINUTES
Council on Postsecondary Education

Type: Work Session
Date: September 14, 2020
Time: 3:00 p.m. ET
Location: Virtual Meeting – Council members by ZOOM teleconference. Public viewing at: <https://youtu.be/TYRI74588kE>.

WELCOMING & CALL TO ORDER

The Council on Postsecondary Education met Thursday, September 14, 2020, at 3:00 p.m., ET. Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-243 and a memorandum issued by the Finance and Administration Cabinet dated March 16, 2020, and in an effort to prevent the spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the CPE met utilizing a video teleconference. Members of the public were invited to view the meeting virtually on the CPE YouTube page: <https://youtu.be/TYRI74588kE>.

Chair Ben Brandstetter presided.

ATTENDANCE

Members attended: Ron Beal, Colby Birkes, Ben Brandstetter, Kim Halbauer, Lori Harper, Lucas Mentzer, Kristi Nelson, Richard Nelson, Vidya Ravichandran, Robert Staat, Carol Wright, and Sherrill Zimmerman.

Members not in attendance: Donna Moore, Commissioner Jason Glass

CPE President Aaron Thompson attended the meeting and served as Secretary of the board, per the CPE Bylaws. Heather Faesy, CPE's senior associate for Board Relations, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Chair Brandstetter welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Colby Birkes, the student member for the 2020-21 academic year.

COPING WITH COVID-19: THE IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC ON KENTUCKY HIGHER EDUCATION

Facilitator: Travis Powell, CPE's Vice President and General Counsel
Panelists: Robert Jackson, President, Murray State University
Scott Williams, President, Owensboro Community & Technical College
Burton Webb, President, University of Pikeville

Presidents Robert Jackson, Scott Williams, and Burton Webb participated in a facilitated discussion on how COVID-19 is affecting their campus. The topics discussed included:

- How regular campus operations have changed.
- The financial shortfalls it has created in campus budgets.
- The inability to create a lasting long-term plan of action.
- The opportunity to see clear needs of change to make education more accessible to remote learners.
- How some schools have redesigned their course length from 16 weeks to 8 weeks, and whether students are getting the same amount of maturation of knowledge with that platform.
- Communication efforts being made to keep students informed on the latest case counts, quarantine status, and safety precautions.
- How education in Kentucky must continue to evolve to meet the needs and wants of the students but also stay current with future market needs.

STATUS REPORT AND DISCUSSION, 2020 WORK PLAN

Ms. Lee Nimocks, CPE's Vice President and Chief of Staff, provided a status report on the work accomplished toward the 2020 work plan. The session covered a review of the work accomplished in 2020 based on the four priorities driving CPE's work, how the Covid-19 pandemic has changed the way CPE works and forced it to refocus on its priorities and shift strategies accordingly, and the areas of focus that still need attention.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned at 5:10 p.m., ET.

MINUTES REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL: _____

DRAFT MINUTES
Council on Postsecondary Education

Type: Business Meeting
Date: September 15, 2020
Time: 9:00 a.m. ET
Location: Virtual Meeting – Council members by ZOOM teleconference. Public viewing at: <https://youtu.be/J2uf0aPlgAA>

WELCOMING & CALL TO ORDER

The Council on Postsecondary Education met Friday, September 15, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., ET. Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-243 and a memorandum issued by the Finance and Administration Cabinet dated March 16, 2020, and in an effort to prevent the spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the CPE met utilizing a video teleconference. Members of the public were invited to view the meeting virtually on the CPE YouTube page: <https://youtu.be/J2uf0aPlgAA>.

Chair Ben Brandstetter presided.

ATTENDANCE

Members attended: Ron Beal, Colby Birkes, Ben Brandstetter, Eric Farris, Kim Halbauer, Lori Harper, Lucas Mentzer, Kristi Nelson, Richard Nelson, Vidya Ravichandran, Robert Staat, Kevin Weaver, and Commissioner Jason Glass.

Member attended by telephone (listen only, joined at 9:45 a.m.): Muhammad Babar

Members not in attendance: Donna Moore and Carol Wright

CPE President Aaron Thompson attended the meeting and served as Secretary of the board, per the CPE Bylaws. Heather Faesy, CPE's senior associate for Board Relations, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

OATH OF OFFICE

Franklin County Judge Executive, Huston Wells, administered the oath of office for new Council members Colby Birkes, Eric Farris and Kevin Weaver.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONER JASON GLASS

Dr. Jason Glass, a native of Brandenburg and a third-generation Kentucky educator, took the helm as the Kentucky Commissioner of Education on September 14, 2020. He provided comments on his vision for K-12 education in Kentucky and how he plans to engage the Council in those discussions.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the June 19, 2020 meeting was approved as distributed.

PROPOSED COUNCIL RESOLUTION

The Council approved a resolution for Jay Box, President of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, in thanks of his support and service to postsecondary education in Kentucky.

ACADEMIC AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES COMMITTEE – REPORT AND RECOMMENDED ACTION ITEMS

Committee Chair Lori Harper presented the Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee Report and Recommendations. The Committee met on August 18, 2020 and discussions centered on the fall 2020 campus reopening plans, updates on CPE's research agenda, work of the newly-formed Student Advisory Group and the P-20 initiatives in progress. The Committee was also given an inside look at the Academic Program Review project being completed by Gray's Associates.

Ms. Harper also presented the Committee's following recommendations:

- Approval of two new programs at Northern Kentucky University - a Bachelor of Science in Applied Software Engineering, and a Doctor of Occupational Therapy.
- Approval of one new program at the University of Kentucky – a Ph.D. program in Health Services Research.
- Approval of one new academic program at Murray State University – an Education Specialist degree in Agriculture Education.
- Approval of proposed revisions to the New Academic Approval Policy to align it more closely with the requirements of the SACSCOC substantive change process.

MOTION: Dr. Staat moved that the Council accept the recommendations of approval by the Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee. Mr. Nelson seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

DISCUSSION WITH MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICES – FINANCIAL OUTLOOK FOR KENTUCKY'S POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION MARKET

Presenters: Mary Kay Cooney, Moody's Investors Service, Vice President & Senior Analyst, Public Finance Group, Higher Education & Not for Profit Team
Susan Fitzgerald, Moody's Investors Service, Assoc. Managing Director

Representatives from Moody's Investors Services presented on the current credit status of the higher education sector as it confronts unprecedented business disruption driven by the coronavirus pandemic. They reviewed initiatives universities are taking to adapt, how the pandemic could change the higher education landscape beyond the current year, and Kentucky's current status in comparison to other states.

Following the presentation, discussions centered around Kentucky's pension system, the effects on credit ratings of taking on additional debt at this time, and how Kentucky ranks in state support as compared to surrounding states.

COMMENTS FROM KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Kentucky Department of Education's Associate Commissioner, Rob Akers, provided an update on the arrival of Commissioner Jason Glass and the department's work in the K-12 sector. He highlighted the reorganization of the Education Professional Standards Board and the work they are doing to ensure teacher quality. He also talked about students' experiences as they returned to in-person classes and the guidance the schools are following to ensure safety. Finally, he discussed how social-emotional help for students has become a focus of the agency.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Aaron Thompson provided a number of updates on the following topics:

- The renewing commitment to advancing a common P-20 agenda to improve transitions from high school to college, and from college to the workplace.
- The work occurring on campuses in response to the pandemic to accelerate innovation in teaching and learning.
- The development of a student-centered web portal which will house resources to help high school students apply for college admission and financial aid.
- Updates on the discussions held at the first two meetings of the Postsecondary Education Working Group, a committee charged by statute with reviewing the performance-based distribution models for the public universities and KCTCS.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – REPORT

Committee Chair Ben Brandstetter presented the Finance Committee Report. The Committee met August 18, 2020 and the committee reviewed the information being presented to the Interim Budget Review Subcommittee on Education at its August 19 meeting; received an update on the funding provided to campuses through the four pools of CARES Act funding that higher education has been able to access; and received an overview of the discussions from the first meeting of the Postsecondary Education Working Group on Performance Funding, which met on July 30, 2020.

There were no action items recommended for approval.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – REPORT AND RECOMMENDED ACTION ITEMS

Chair Brandstetter presented the Executive Committee report. The Committee met on August 6, 2020 and it focused on the work of the performance funding meeting on July 30 and the campus's reopening plans.

Committee Appointments: Chair Brandstetter appointed Colby Birkes to the Finance Committee, Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee, and the Committee on Equal Opportunities, effective on his appointment date.

RECENT RESEARCH AND DATA REPORTS

Dr. David Mahan, CPE's Associate Vice President of Data, Research and Advanced Analytics, briefed the Council on the Dual Credit and Student Success report that released in early September. The report measured the impact of dual credit on student success at the state's public, four-year universities, and it was the first comprehensive study on the topic since Kentucky launched a statewide dual credit policy and scholarship program in 2016 to improve participation. Dr. Amanda Ellis, CPE's Associate Vice President of P-20 Policy and Programs provided supporting information regarding dual credit opportunities at Kentucky's high schools and also discussed how dual credit fits within the developing P-20 strategic plan.

Dr. Mahan also provided preliminary enrollment numbers for the Fall 2020, which were higher than expected during the pandemic.

CAMPUS "GOOD NEWS" REPORTS

Reports from the institutions were provided in the agenda materials.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned at 11:45 a.m. ET.

MINUTES REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL: _____

DRAFT

KY COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

TITLE: Report from the Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee

DESCRIPTION: The following is a summary of the Committee's meeting on October 20, 2020.

PRESENTER: Lori Harper, Chair of Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee

The Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee met on October 20, 2020. The following is a summary of that meeting.

Action item - reviewed and being recommended for adoption by the Council on November 13, 2020:

- Education Continuum Resolution as part of the renewed focus on P-20 programs.

Agency Updates, Reports and Discussion Items

- Update of the development of the college readiness indicators
 - 2021-22 – will use the same procedures implemented for 2020-21 year.
 - 2022-23 – indicators will be presented for approval in spring 2021.
- Received a walkthrough of the Transfer Data Portal, which includes data related to transfer counts, retention rates, graduation rates, attaining GPA, and transfers by major.
- Update on the various ways staff are communicating with faculty, students and student success administrators to ensure best practices are still continuing despite the pandemic.

The supporting materials and YouTube replay link can be found on the Council Meetings Records Archive webpage at: <http://cpe.ky.gov/aboutus/records/index.html>.

TITLE: P-20 Initiatives and Commonwealth Continuum Resolution

RECOMMENDATION: The Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee recommended the approval of the joint resolution to establish the Commonwealth Continuum.

PRESENTER: Amanda Ellis, CPE's Associate Vice President of P-20 Policies and Programs

COMMITTEE REVIEW AND APPROVAL

The Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee reviewed and approved the attached joint resolution at its October 20, 2020 meeting.

COMMONWEALTH CONTINUUM RESOLUTION

The joint resolution is between the CPE, the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet, and the Kentucky Department of Education and it is to establish the Commonwealth Continuum in partnership with other education policy leaders and practitioners. The goal is to provide a forum for Kentucky's P-12 and postsecondary systems to work collaboratively to:

- develop a high-quality, diverse educator workforce;
- provide student and family support for successful educational transitions;
- improve equitable access to higher education;
- strengthen preparation for career success; and
- improve awareness of postsecondary opportunities through a unified, state-level communication and outreach campaign.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In order for students to earn degrees and credentials that lead to sustainable, competitive-wage careers, it is imperative that their educational experience, from preschool through postsecondary education, provides an equitable opportunity to successfully transition to the next level.

CPE recognizes the moral imperative to strengthen the education pipeline. We are committed to collaborating with the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) and the Education Workforce and Development Cabinet (EWDC) to increase equitable access to a high- quality, diverse teacher workforce, strengthen student and family support for successful transitions, and improve awareness of opportunities to enter higher education to achieve career success.

In order to do this, an Advisory Committee was formed with leaders from those 3 groups as well as other P-20 state and national leaders. Below is a description of its objectives and potential areas of focus for the first year of work.

Committee Objectives

The committee will strive to increase equitable access of postsecondary opportunities for all Kentucky students by:

- Increasing and improving the quality* and competencies of a diverse teaching workforce;
- Ensuring successful transitions throughout the educational pathway to increase postsecondary enrollment and degree attainment;
- Increasing student and family access to and awareness of opportunities for students to achieve the necessary degree(s) and credentials to enter the workforce successfully

**Quality is defined as teachers who have the skills and knowledge to understand and instruct academic standards at the appropriate rigorous level for each grade with cultural awareness of student needs and learning styles.*

Tentative Year 1 Focus Areas

- Create collaborative recruitment strategies for recruiting a diverse teacher workforce. (Teacher Workforce)
- Re-establish the Dual Credit Advisory Council to review and update the current policy with an emphasis on admission criteria and the quality of dual credit courses. (Transitions, Access and Awareness)
- Create a collaborative communication campaign for students and families to prepare for postsecondary opportunities after high school graduation. (Access and Awareness)
- Establish statewide events including: college application week, FAFSA completion, transfer credit week, and college decision making day.

**COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, KENTUCKY EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT CABINET AND THE KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Resolution to establish the Commonwealth Continuum

WHEREAS, Kentucky is committed to equitable access to a high-quality education to ensure the educational development and success of all students; and

WHEREAS, despite progress, too many Kentuckians lack postsecondary credentials, and significant attainment gaps exist between underrepresented minority and white adults; and

WHEREAS, too few of Kentucky’s high school graduates transition to and graduate from college; and

WHEREAS, early postsecondary opportunities such as dual credit help students earn low-cost college credits and prepare them for a postsecondary environment; and

WHEREAS, all students need strong advising, mentoring, outreach and support systems to navigate the sometimes difficult pathway between secondary and postsecondary education; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky’s teachers and school leaders need access to high-quality, innovative training and ongoing professional development to prepare students for college - academically, socially, and emotionally;

WHEREAS, the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) set a goal to increase the percentage of Kentuckians with a postsecondary credential to 60% by 2030; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Commonwealth of Kentucky to meet or exceed this goal and increase four-year college degrees and create a highly-skilled workforce; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council on Postsecondary Education, the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet, and the Kentucky Department of Education will join forces with other education policy leaders and practitioners to establish the Commonwealth Continuum. The Continuum will provide a forum for Kentucky’s P-12 and postsecondary systems to work collaboratively to develop a high-quality, diverse educator workforce; provide student and family support for successful educational transitions; improve equitable access to higher education; strengthen preparation for career success; and improve awareness of postsecondary opportunities through a unified, state-level communication and outreach campaign.

ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION on _____, 2020

_____ President, Council on Postsecondary Education

_____ Chair, Council on Postsecondary Education

ADOPTED BY THE KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION on _____, 2020

_____ Commissioner, Department of Education

_____ Chair, Board of Education

_____ Secretary, Kentucky Education and Workforce
Development Cabinet

DRAFT

KY COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

TITLE: Report from the Finance Committee

DESCRIPTION: The following is a summary of the Committee's meeting on October 20, 2020.

PRESENTER: Benjamin E. Brandstetter, Chair of Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met on October 20, 2020. The following is a summary of that meeting.

Action Items - reviewed and being recommended for adoption by the Council on November 13, 2020:

- Interim Capital Project for UofL J.B. Speed Building Renovation
- Interim Capital Project for UofL Medical Tower 55A Vivarium

Agency Updates, Reports and Discussion Items

- Received status report updates on the following fees:
 - Special Use Fee – Revenue and Use Report
 - Asset Preservation Fee – Revenue and Use Report
 - KCTCS Agency Bond Fee – Revenue and Use Report
 - Asset Preservation Fee – Murray State University Projects for FY 2020-21
- Discussed the potential revisions to the Asset Preservation Fee Policy, which are being discussed with campus presidents and budget officers, and are expected to come for approval at the Committee's next meeting.
- Received an overview of the discussions from the September and October meetings of the Postsecondary Education Working Group on Performance Funding.

The supporting materials and YouTube replay link can be found on the Council Meetings Records Archive webpage at: <http://cpe.ky.gov/aboutus/records/index.html>.

TITLE: Interim Capital Project – UofL J.B. Speed Building Renovation

RECOMMENDATION: The Finance Committee recommends the Council approve of an \$18,700,000 agency fund interim project at the University of Louisville to renovate the J.B. Speed School of Engineering Building.

PRESENTERS: Shaun McKiernan, CPE’s Director of Finance and Budget
Ryan Kaffenberger, CPE’s Senior Associate for Finance and Budget

COMMITTEE REVIEW & APPROVAL

The Finance Committee reviewed the interim capital project proposal from the University of Louisville and approved it at its October 20, 2020 meeting.

PROJECT INFORMATION

University of Louisville (UofL) officials request authorization for an interim capital project to renovate and upgrade the J.B. Speed School of Engineering building. This asset preservation project was approved by the UofL Board and was approved by the Council as part of the 2020-22 biennial budget recommendation. Council approval is needed since the project was not included in the enacted 2020-21 state budget.

Upon approval, work will begin on the building’s heating and cooling system upgrades. Renovation of the basement-based HVAC system is the first step required to enhance the facility’s comfort and energy efficiency.

This project was approved by UofL’s Board of Trustees on October 24, 2019 as part of the institution’s 2020-2026 Capital Plan as “Renovate and Expand JB Speed Bldg.” Upgrading the building’s HVAC system is Phase 1 of the total \$18,700,000 renovation and expansion project and is estimated to cost \$1,290,000. More information can be found in the attached documentation. Upgrades to other building mechanicals and improvements to other building systems will be completed prior to any aesthetic improvements.

PROCESS FOR APPROVAL

House Bill 592 (2018) created a new provision in KRS 164A.575, which allows public postsecondary institutions to authorize capital projects not specifically listed in the state budget as long as the projects are funded with non-general fund appropriations, do not jeopardize funding for existing programs, and are reported by the institution to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee. The pertinent section of KRS 164A.575 is provided below:

- (15) Notwithstanding KRS 45.760, the governing board may authorize a capital construction project or a major item of equipment even though it is not specifically listed in any branch budget bill, subject to the following conditions and procedures:
 - (a) The full cost shall be funded solely by non-general fund appropriations;
 - (b) Moneys specifically budgeted and appropriated by the General Assembly for another purpose shall not be allotted or re-allotted for expenditure on the project or major item of equipment. Moneys utilized shall not jeopardize any existing program and shall not require the use of any current general funds specifically dedicated to existing programs; and
 - (c) The institution's president, or designee, shall submit the project or major item of equipment to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee for review as provided by KRS 45.800.

The approval process for a capital project that exceeds \$1,000,000 is as follows:

- The project must be approved by an institution's board of trustees or regents;
- The project must be submitted to the Council on Postsecondary Education for review and action;
- If approved by the Council, projects at KCTCS and KSU are submitted to the Secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet for review and action, and subsequently submitted by the Secretary to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee for review;
- If approved by the Council, projects at EKV, MoSU, MuSU, NKU, UK, UofL, and WKU are submitted by the requesting institution to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee for review, and a copy is provided to the Finance and Administration Cabinet as information; and
- Following review and action by the appropriate agencies, the project may be initiated by the requesting institution.

Because this project was not authorized in the enacted 2020-21 budget (HB 352), Council approval is now required to authorize this project. UofL will not be debt financing any portion of this project; therefore, provisions of KRS 45.763 do not apply.

NEXT STEPS

Following Council action, staff will notify the president of UofL, the Secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet, and the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee of the Council's recommendation concerning this project.

September 28, 2020

Senator Rick Girdler
Representative Walker Thomas
Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee
Legislative Research Commission
Capital Annex Room 34
Frankfort, KY 40601

RE: Renovation & Expand J.B. Speed Building

Dear Senator Girdler and Representative Thomas:

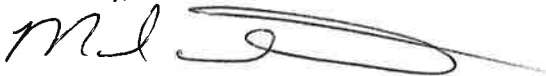
In accordance with provisions of KRS 45.760 (7), I am writing to request authorization to begin the renovation of the J.B. Speed Building. This project will be completed in phases as funds are identified. Funding has been identified for the upgrade of the HVAC system, which will be Phase 1. Third party engineering firm developed the project cost estimate based on the current market. The budget submitted in the 2020-2026 Capital Plan was \$18,700,000. Phase 1 of the project cost estimate is \$1,290,000.

J.B. Speed School of Engineering has a systemic heating/cooling issues that can be resolved with an upgraded heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system. Renovation of the basement-based HVAC system is an imperative first step to upgrading the facility for both comfort and efficiency measures.

The University of Louisville Board of Trustees approved the project on October 24, 2019. This project was submitted as part of the University of Louisville's Six-Year Capital Plan 2020-2026. This project will not use any current general funds or any funds appropriated for another purpose.

We appreciate your support, and if you have any questions, please contact Kim Noltemeyer at 502-852-5699.

Sincerely,



Mark J. Watkins
Chief Operating Officer
University of Louisville

cc: President Neeli Bendapudi
Dan Durbin, CFO
Shaun McKiernan
Carla Wright (OSBD)

RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
REGARDING SIX-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN

Finance Committee – October 24, 2019
Board of Trustees – October 24, 2019

RECOMMENDATION:

The President recommends that the list of projects, as **attached**, be approved for submission to the Capital Planning Advisory Board as the university's 2020-2026 Capital Plan.

BACKGROUND:

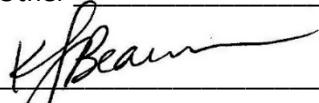
An Executive Summary follows the list of projects.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

Passed X

Did Not Pass

Other

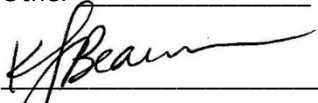

Assistant Secretary

BOARD ACTION:

Passed X

Did Not Pass

Other


Assistant Secretary

Biennium	Authorized for 2018-2020	Priority	DRAFT - Project Title	GF / AB / FF	Restricted Funds	Other	Total Amount
2020-2022	YES	1	Upgrade STEM Instructional Buildings	50,000,000			50,000,000
2020-2022		2	Capital Renewal Replace and Upgrade Pool	100,000,000			100,000,000
2020-2022	YES	3	Renovate School of Med. Building 55A (five floor renovation plus infrastructure)		42,000,000		42,000,000
2020-2022	YES	4	Renovate HSC Instructional and Student Service Space 55B		20,000,000		20,000,000
2020-2022	YES	5	Regional Biocontainment Lab Pressurization Control Upgrade		10,868,707		10,868,707
2020-2022	YES	6	Renovation and Adaption Projects for Various Campus Buildings		50,000,000		50,000,000
2020-2022		7	New - Renovate Bldg 55A - 9th floor into a vivarium		8,000,000		8,000,000
2020-2022	YES	8	Construct - College of Business Building	40,000,000		80,000,000	120,000,000
2020-2022	YES	9	Public/Private Partnership Residence Hall			51,000,000	51,000,000
2020-2022	YES	10	Renovate and Expand JB Speed Bldg		18,700,000		18,700,000
2020-2022	YES	11	Renovate Natural Science Building		30,000,000		30,000,000
2020-2022	YES	12	Renovate Vivarium Facilities		75,000,000		75,000,000
2020-2022	YES	13	Construct Plant based Pharmaceutical Research Facility		1,700,000		1,700,000
2020-2022	YES	14	Renovate Life Sciences Building Vivarium		3,470,767		3,470,767
2020-2022		15	Purchase Next Generation/ERP Support System		20,000,000		20,000,000
2020-2022	YES	16	Chemistry Fume Hood Redesign, Phase II		9,750,000		9,750,000
2020-2022	YES	17	Renovate College of Business Classrooms		2,000,000		2,000,000
2020-2022	YES	18	Robotic Book Retrieval System Expansion - Ekstrom Library Project		4,900,000		4,900,000
2020-2022		19	NEW-Vivarium Equipment Pool		20,000,000		20,000,000
2020-2022	YES	20	Expand Patterson Baseball Stadium/Construct Indoor Facility			9,500,000	9,500,000
2020-2022	YES	21	Replace Electronic Video Boards			2,000,000	2,000,000
2020-2022	YES	22	Renovate Dental School Admin Space		1,000,000		1,000,000
2020-2022	YES	23	Renovate Chemistry Teaching Laboratories and Auditorium		3,960,000		3,960,000
2020-2022	YES	24	Speed School Multidisciplinary Engineering Bldg #1		65,000,000		65,000,000
2020-2022	YES	25	Construct Utility Infrastructure Upgrade		21,975,000		21,975,000
2020-2022	YES	26	Improve Housing Facilities Pool		10,000,000		10,000,000
2020-2022	YES	27	Renovate Parking Structures		3,600,000		3,600,000
2020-2022	YES	28	Resurface and Repair Parking Lots		2,500,000		2,500,000

TITLE: Interim Capital Project – UofL Medical Tower-55A Vivarium

RECOMMENDATION: The Finance Committee recommends approval of an \$8,000,000 interim project at the University of Louisville to renovate the 8th and 9th floors of Medical Tower-55A. The project is federally-funded by a grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

PRESENTERS: Shaun McKiernan, CPE’s Director of Finance and Budget
Ryan Kaffenberger, CPE’s Senior Associate for Finance and Budget

COMMITTEE REVIEW & APPROVAL

The Finance Committee reviewed the interim capital project proposal from the University of Louisville and approved it at its October 20, 2020 meeting.

PROJECT INFORMATION

University of Louisville (UofL) officials request authorization for an interim capital project to renovate the 8th and 9th floors of Medical Tower-55A. This renovation will convert the 9th floor of the building into a vivarium. The renovation of the 8th floor will contain the mechanical support required for the vivarium. This project will support the institution’s research and advance the mission of the university to become a premier, nationally-recognized metropolitan research university.

This project was approved by UofL’s Board of Trustees on October 24, 2019 as part of the institution’s 2020-2026 Capital Plan as “New - Renovate Bldg 55A - 9th floor into a vivarium”. The project cost is expected to be \$8,000,000 and will be federally-funded by an NIH grant awarded on September 19, 2020. More information can be found in the attached documentation.

PROCESS FOR APPROVAL

Kentucky Revised Statute 45.760 allows public postsecondary institutions to authorize capital projects not specifically listed in the state budget that are funded with federal or

private funds provided they do not jeopardize funding for existing programs, do not reallocate moneys previously appropriated for another purpose and are submitted by the institution to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee for review. The pertinent section of KRS 45.760 is provided below:

- (7) A capital construction project or a major item of equipment may be authorized even though it is not specifically listed in any branch budget bill, subject to the following conditions and procedures:
 - (a) Fifty percent (50%) or more of the actual cost shall be funded by federal or private funds, and fifty percent (50%) or less of the actual cost shall be funded by moneys appropriated to the capital construction and equipment purchase contingency account or, if the purpose of the project or equipment is to reduce energy costs, the relevant entity head certifies projected energy cost savings associated with the project or equipment are reasonable and sufficient to produce an aggregate simple payback period, as defined by KRS 56.770, of five (5) years or less;
 - (b) Moneys specifically budgeted and appropriated by the General Assembly for another purpose shall not be allotted or reallocated for expenditure on the project or major item of equipment; moneys utilized shall not jeopardize any existing program and shall not require the use of any current general funds specifically dedicated to existing programs; and
 - (c) The relevant entity head, or his designee, shall submit the project or major item of equipment to the committee for review as provided by KRS 45.800.

The approval process for a capital project that exceeds \$1,000,000 is as follows:

- The project must be approved by an institution's board of trustees or regents;
- The project must be submitted to the Council on Postsecondary Education for review and action;
- If approved by the Council, projects at KCTCS and KSU are submitted to the Secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet for review and action, and subsequently submitted by the Secretary to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee for review;
- If approved by the Council, projects at EKV, MoSV, MuSV, NKU, UK, UofL, and WKU are submitted by the requesting institution to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee for review, and a copy is provided to the Finance and Administration Cabinet as information; and
- Following review and action by the appropriate agencies, the project may be initiated by the requesting institution.

Because this project was not authorized in the enacted 2020-21 budget (HB 352), Council approval is now required to authorize this project. UofL will not be debt financing any portion of this project; therefore, provisions of KRS 45.763 do not apply.

NEXT STEPS

Following Council action, staff will notify the president of UofL, the Secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet, and the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee of the Council's recommendation concerning this project.

September 28, 2020

Senator Rick Girdler
Representative Walker Thomas
Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee
Legislative Research Commission
Capital Annex Room 34
Frankfort, KY 40601

RE: Renovation Building 55A – 9th Floor into a Vivarium

Dear Senator Girdler and Representative Thomas:

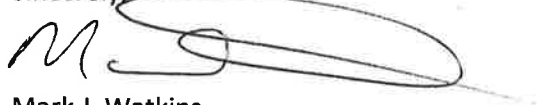
In accordance with provisions of KRS 45.760 (7), I am writing to request authorization to begin the renovation of the 8th and 9th floor of the University of Louisville Medical Tower-55A. Funding has been identified for the project, which is an NIH grant for \$8,000,000 awarded on September 19, 2020. Kentucky architectural firm developed the project cost estimate based on the current market. The budget expectation was \$8,000,000 in the 2020-2026 Six-Year Capital Plan.

This project will renovation the 9th floor of the building into a vivarium. The 8th floor renovation will house the mechanical support for the vivarium. The vivarium will aid in research, and continue the mission of the university to become a premier, nationally-recognized metropolitan research university.

The University of Louisville Board of Trustees approved the project on October 24, 2019. This project was submitted as part of the University of Louisville's Six-Year Capital Plan 2020-2026. NIH grant will fund the project. This project will not use any current general funds or any funds appropriated for another purpose.

We appreciate your support, and if you have any questions, please contact Kim Noltemeyer at 502-852-5699.

Sincerely,



Mark J. Watkins
Chief Operating Officer
University of Louisville

cc: President Neeli Bendapudi
Dan Durbin, CFO
Dr. Leslie Sherwood
Shaun McKiernan
Carla Wright (OSBD)

RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
REGARDING SIX-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN

Finance Committee – October 24, 2019
Board of Trustees – October 24, 2019

RECOMMENDATION:

The President recommends that the list of projects, as **attached**, be approved for submission to the Capital Planning Advisory Board as the university's 2020-2026 Capital Plan.

BACKGROUND:

An Executive Summary follows the list of projects.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

Passed X

Did Not Pass

Other



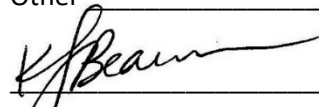
Assistant Secretary

BOARD ACTION:

Passed X

Did Not Pass

Other



Assistant Secretary

Biennium	Authorized for 2018-2020	Priority	DRAFT - Project Title	GF / AB / FF	Restricted Funds	Other	Total Amount
2020-2022	YES	1	Upgrade STEM Instructional Buildings	50,000,000			50,000,000
2020-2022		2	Capital Renewal Replace and Upgrade Pool	100,000,000			100,000,000
2020-2022	YES	3	Renovate School of Med. Building 55A (five floor renovation plus infrastructure)		42,000,000		42,000,000
2020-2022	YES	4	Renovate HSC Instructional and Student Service Space 55B		20,000,000		20,000,000
2020-2022	YES	5	Regional Biocontainment Lab Pressurization Control Upgrade		10,868,707		10,868,707
2020-2022	YES	6	Renovation and Adaption Projects for Various Campus Buildings		50,000,000		50,000,000
2020-2022		7	New - Renovate Bldg 55A - 9th floor into a vivarium		8,000,000		8,000,000
2020-2022	YES	8	Construct - College of Business Building	40,000,000		80,000,000	120,000,000
2020-2022	YES	9	Public/Private Partnership Residence Hall			51,000,000	51,000,000
2020-2022	YES	10	Renovate and Expand JB Speed Bldg		18,700,000		18,700,000
2020-2022	YES	11	Renovate Natural Science Building		30,000,000		30,000,000
2020-2022	YES	12	Renovate Vivarium Facilities		75,000,000		75,000,000
2020-2022	YES	13	Construct Plant based Pharmaceutical Research Facility		1,700,000		1,700,000
2020-2022	YES	14	Renovate Life Sciences Building Vivarium		3,470,767		3,470,767
2020-2022		15	Purchase Next Generation/ERP Support System		20,000,000		20,000,000
2020-2022	YES	16	Chemistry Fume Hood Redesign, Phase II		9,750,000		9,750,000
2020-2022	YES	17	Renovate College of Business Classrooms		2,000,000		2,000,000
2020-2022	YES	18	Robotic Book Retrieval System Expansion - Ekstrom Library Project		4,900,000		4,900,000
2020-2022		19	NEW-Vivarium Equipment Pool		20,000,000		20,000,000
2020-2022	YES	20	Expand Patterson Baseball Stadium/Construct Indoor Facility			9,500,000	9,500,000
2020-2022	YES	21	Replace Electronic Video Boards			2,000,000	2,000,000
2020-2022	YES	22	Renovate Dental School Admin Space		1,000,000		1,000,000
2020-2022	YES	23	Renovate Chemistry Teaching Laboratories and Auditorium		3,960,000		3,960,000
2020-2022	YES	24	Speed School Multidisciplinary Engineering Bldg #1		65,000,000		65,000,000
2020-2022	YES	25	Construct Utility Infrastructure Upgrade		21,975,000		21,975,000
2020-2022	YES	26	Improve Housing Facilities Pool		10,000,000		10,000,000
2020-2022	YES	27	Renovate Parking Structures		3,600,000		3,600,000
2020-2022	YES	28	Resurface and Repair Parking Lots		2,500,000		2,500,000

TITLE: Delegation of Authority Request -- Interim Capital Project at Murray State University

RECOMMENDATION: The Finance Committee requests authority from the full Council to review and provide final approval for a Murray State University interim capital project at its December 15, 2020 meeting. This \$2,000,000 project will be funded with institutional resources and will make significant upgrades and repairs to the Lovett Auditorium HVAC system.

PRESENTERS: Shaun McKiernan, CPE's Director of Budget and Finance
Ryan Kaffenberger, CPE's Senior Associate for Budget and Finance

COMMITTEE REVIEW

The Finance Committee discussed this item at the October 20, 2020 meeting. The Council cannot take action on this project until it has not been approved by Murray State University's Board of Regents, however, institutional leaders would like to move forward with this project as soon as possible. The Finance Committee requests that the Council delegate its authority to review and take action on this project to the Finance Committee when it meets on December 15, 2020. This action will allow Murray State's Board the opportunity to approve the project on December 4 and for campus officials to take the project to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee on December 17.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Murray State University (MuSU) officials plan to request authorization for an interim capital project to replace the HVAC System and repair ductwork in the Lovett Auditorium. Ductwork in the attic space above the auditorium has damaged insulation causing it to sweat. The duct cannot be easily reinsulated or replaced. This project will robotically clean and seal the ductwork from the inside in the auditorium's attic and repair the damaged plaster ceiling. The air handlers on the stage will be replaced with a new one in the basement and new supply ductwork routed through the crawl space. New boilers will be installed in order to remove the building from the central steam system. The old ductwork in the attic will be repurposed as the return duct for the new

HVAC system. The old electrical transformers and switchgear for the building will also be replaced as part of the project. These replacements and repairs will also improve the efficiency of the building's HVAC system.

The total scope of the Lovett Auditorium project is anticipated to be \$2,000,000. The project is expected to use \$600,000 of revenue from the institution's asset preservation fee as support. The remaining financing will come from other agency funds.

This project is expected to be approved at MuSU's Board meeting on December 4, 2020.

PROCESS FOR APPROVAL

House Bill 592 (2018) created a provision in KRS 164A.575, which allows public postsecondary institutions to authorize capital projects not specifically listed in the state budget as long as the projects are funded with non-general fund appropriations, do not jeopardize funding for existing programs, and are reported by the institution to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee.

The pertinent section of KRS 164A.575 is provided below:

- (15) Notwithstanding KRS 45.760, the governing board may authorize a capital construction project or a major item of equipment even though it is not specifically listed in any branch budget bill, subject to the following conditions and procedures:
 - (a) The full cost shall be funded solely by non-general fund appropriations;
 - (b) Moneys specifically budgeted and appropriated by the General Assembly for another purpose shall not be allotted or re-allotted for expenditure on the project or major item of equipment. Moneys utilized shall not jeopardize any existing program and shall not require the use of any current general funds specifically dedicated to existing programs; and
 - (c) The institution's president, or designee, shall submit the project or major item of equipment to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee for review as provided by KRS 45.800.

The approval process for a capital project that exceeds \$1,000,000 is as follows:

- The project must be approved by an institution's board of trustees or regents;

- The project must be submitted to the Council on Postsecondary Education for review and action;
- If approved by the Council, projects at KCTCS and KSU are submitted to the Secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet for review and action, and subsequently submitted by the Secretary to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee for review;
- If approved by the Council, projects at ECU, MoSU, MuSU, NKU, UNC, UofL, and WKU are submitted by the requesting institution to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee for review, and a copy is provided to the Finance and Administration Cabinet as information; and
- Following review and action by the appropriate agencies, the project may be initiated by the requesting institution.

Because this project was not authorized in the enacted 2020-21 budget (HB 352), Council approval is required to authorize this project. MuSU will not be debt financing any portion of this project; therefore, provisions of KRS 45.763 do not apply.

TITLE: Report from the Executive Committee

DESCRIPTION: The following is a summary of the Committee's meetings on October 8 and November 5, 2020.

PRESENTER: Benjamin E. Brandstetter, Chair of Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met on October 8 and November 5, 2020. The meetings focused on discussions and updates in the following areas:

- Development of the P-20 initiatives
- Meetings of the Postsecondary Education Working Group on Performance Funding,
- Continued work on the campuses, especially in the areas of pandemic planning.
- Discussions regarding the process and development of the 2020 President Evaluation.

There were no action items presented at either meeting.

The agendas can be found on the Council Meetings Records Archive webpage at: <http://cpe.ky.gov/aboutus/records/index.html>.

KY COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

TITLE: Report from the Committee on Equal Opportunities

DESCRIPTION: The following is a summary of the Committee's meeting on October 26, 2020.

PRESENTER: Dr. Robert Staat, Chair of the Committee on Equal Opportunities

The Committee on Equal Opportunities met on October 26, 2020. The following action items were approved:

- The CEO approved the institutional improvement plan for Eastern Kentucky University. They are now eligible to apply for new academic programs.
- Strategy revisions for the institutional diversity plans were approved for Ashland Community & Technical College, Big Sandy Community & Technical College, Eastern Kentucky University, and Somerset Community College.

Additionally, October 26 was the last meeting for CEO member, Ling-Yuh "Miko" Pattie, who has served since 2016. Dr. Staat will present a resolution for the Council's approval thanking her for her service.

2020 Higher EDquity Symposium

The Higher EDquity symposium was held virtually on November 9 and 10 and the theme was "The Urgency of N.O.W. - No Opportunity Wasted." It highlighted strategies for providing equitable services to students from enrollment to degree completion, particularly for underrepresented minorities and low-income students. Sessions focused on creating and maintaining support for students amid the effects of social injustices and the global pandemic.

If you were unable to attend, the sessions will be available for replay on the CPE's YouTube Channel at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCK10p_HfwBdqRpVPjgz8i1A.

Featured speakers included UoL President Neeli Bendapudi, CPE President Aaron Thompson, and Tia Brown McNair, the Vice President in the Office of Diversity, Equity and Student Success at the Association of American Colleges and Universities.

A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING

LING-YUH W. MIKO PATTIE

for her service to the Committee on Equal Opportunities and the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education.

WHEREAS, Miko Pattie served as a member of the Committee on Equal Opportunities from January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2020, where her vision and service helped progress diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives at Kentucky's public postsecondary institutions; and

WHEREAS, prior to serving on the Committee on Equal Opportunities, Miko had a distinguished career at the Council on Postsecondary Education, serving as founding director of the Kentucky Virtual Library, CIO for Kentucky Virtual University, and Senior Advisor for Information and Technology; and

WHEREAS, she led the development of the Kentucky Internet2 Initiative to integrate real-time, interactive, and collaborative applications into the P-20 teaching and learning environment, earning the Best of Kentucky Most Innovative Use of Technology Award; and

WHEREAS, Miko also led the development of the Kentucky Learning Depot, a single-point-of entry repository of high-quality digital content aligned with standards and competencies for educators and learners alike; and

WHEREAS, earlier in her career at the University of Kentucky, Miko served as Statewide Services Librarian, Assistant Director for Technical Services and Head of Cataloging, and in other roles at Eastern Kentucky University and Kentucky State University; and

WHEREAS, her efforts resulted in the Kentucky Virtual Library being named the "2001 Outstanding Library Program of the Southeast for the Multi-type Library Cooperation Award" by SOLINET; and

WHEREAS, she received the "Distinguished Alumna Award" from UK's School of Library and Information Science Alumni Association, and the "Academic Librarian of the Year" by the Academic Library Section, Kentucky Library Association; and

WHEREAS, Miko has contributed her talents, leadership and an unwavering commitment to level the playing field for all Kentuckians in numerous capacities throughout her career; and she has been a valued friend and partner of the Council on Postsecondary Education and a passionate advocate for higher education;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council on Postsecondary Education does hereby adopt this resolution on November 13, 2020, for Ling-Yuh W. Miko Pattie, thanking her for her dedication and service, and wishing her good fortune in her future endeavors.

Benjamin E. Brandstetter, Chair

Aaron Thompson, Ph.D., President

TITLE: 60x30 Update: 2019-20 Degrees and Credentials

DESCRIPTION: Staff will present an update toward the 60x30 education attainment goal, which will include the 2019-20 degrees and credentials conferred, where Kentucky is making progress, and where additional progress is needed.

PRESENTERS: David Mahan, CPE’s Associate Vice President, Data, Research & Advanced Analytics
Lee Nimocks, CPE’s Chief of Staff and Vice President
Travis Muncie, CPE’s Director of Data & Advanced Analytics
Carrie Hodge, CPE’s Senior Associate, Data and Advanced Analytics

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

In 2016, the Council adopted the statewide strategic agenda, “Stronger by Degrees: A Plan to Create a More Educated and Prosperous Kentucky.” The agenda includes a set of key performance metrics, with 2020-21 targets for the state and institutions.

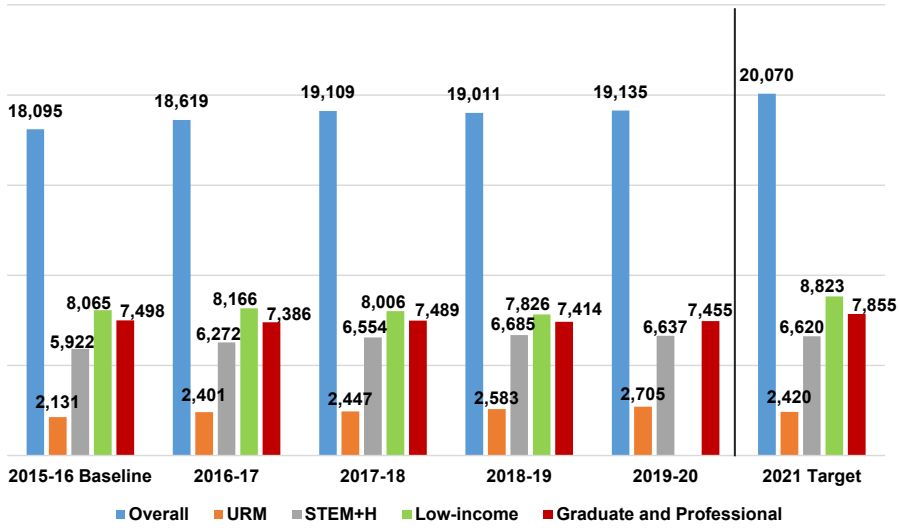
The overarching target is Kentucky’s 60x30 educational attainment goal, to increase educational attainment (certificate and above) of working-age adults to the national average, projected to be 60% in 2030. The goal responds to mandates in the 1997 Postsecondary Education Improvement Act. The purpose is economic development to meet workforce demand for a more highly trained, highly educated population.

Staff will provide an update that summarizes the quantity of 2019-20 degrees and certificates conferred by Kentucky public and private institutions, assesses progress towards the attainment goal and other specific targets established in the statewide strategic agenda.

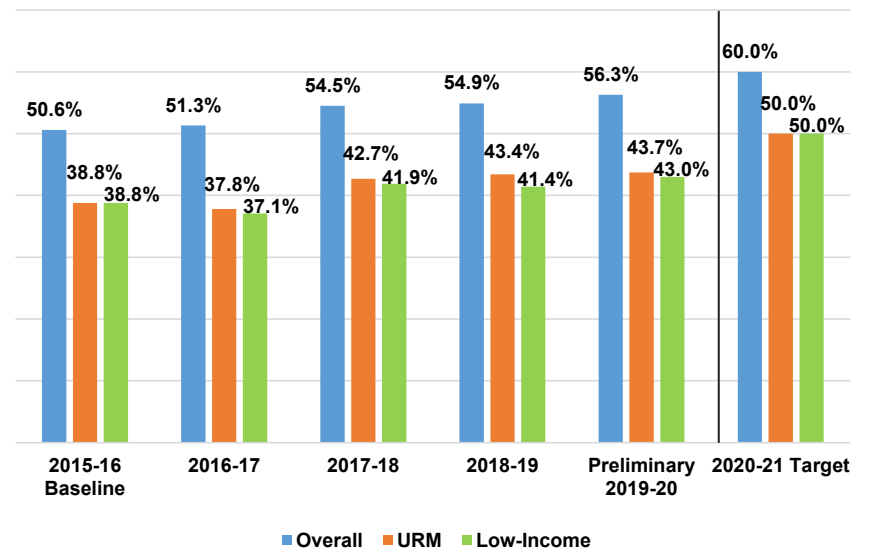
Council staff have also posted 2019-20 degree and certificate information to the interactive dashboard for CPE review. You can [access it by clicking here](#).

STATEWIDE TARGETS

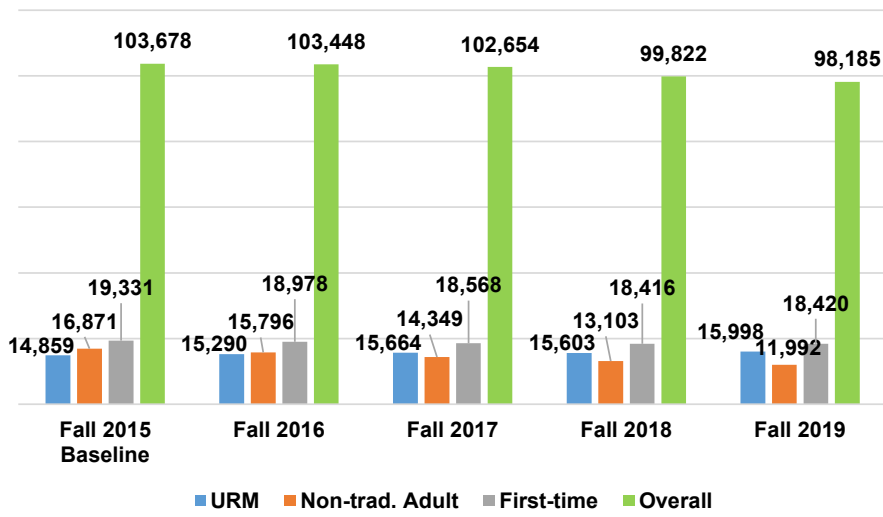
Degrees Awarded at Public Universities



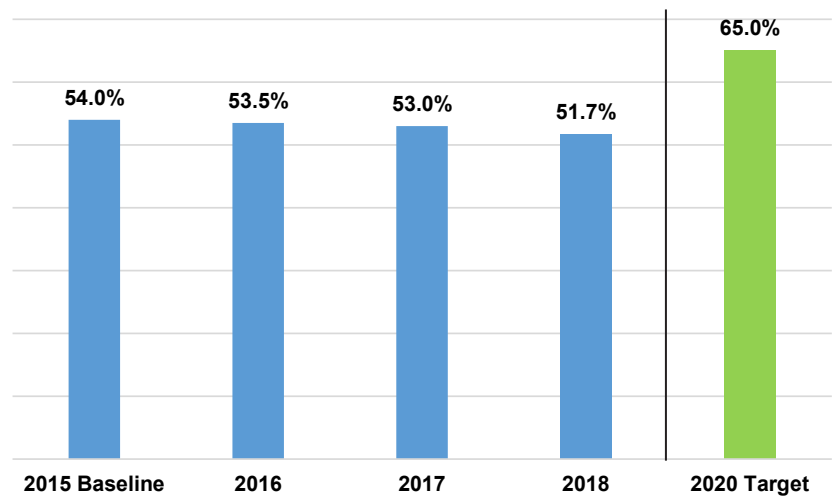
6-Year Graduation Rate at Public Universities



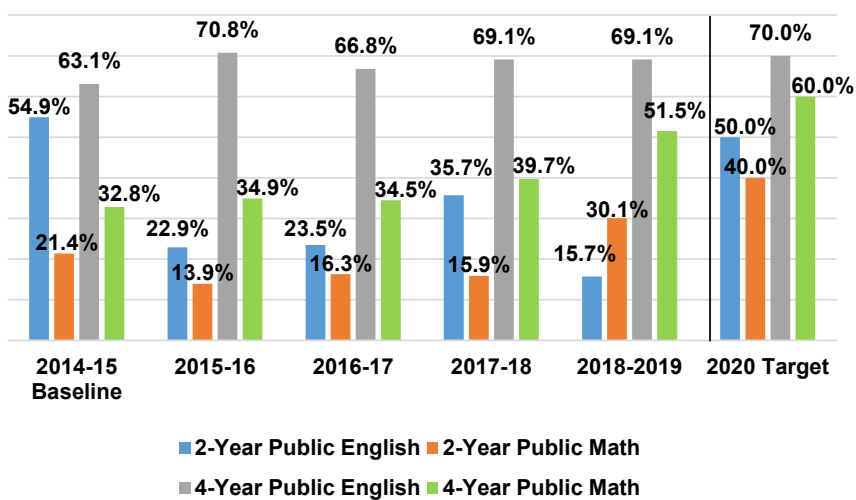
4-Year Public Enrollment



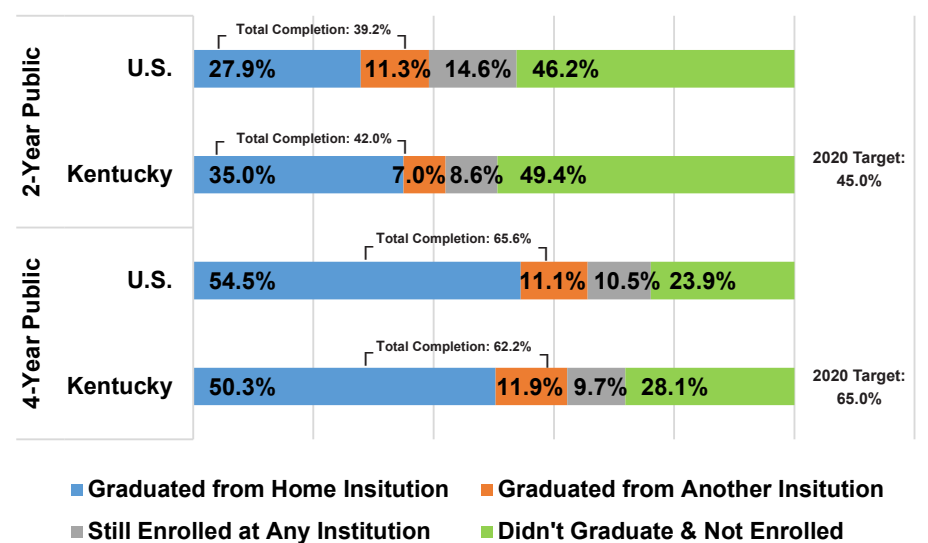
In-State College-Going Rate



Success of Underprepared Students in Gateway Courses

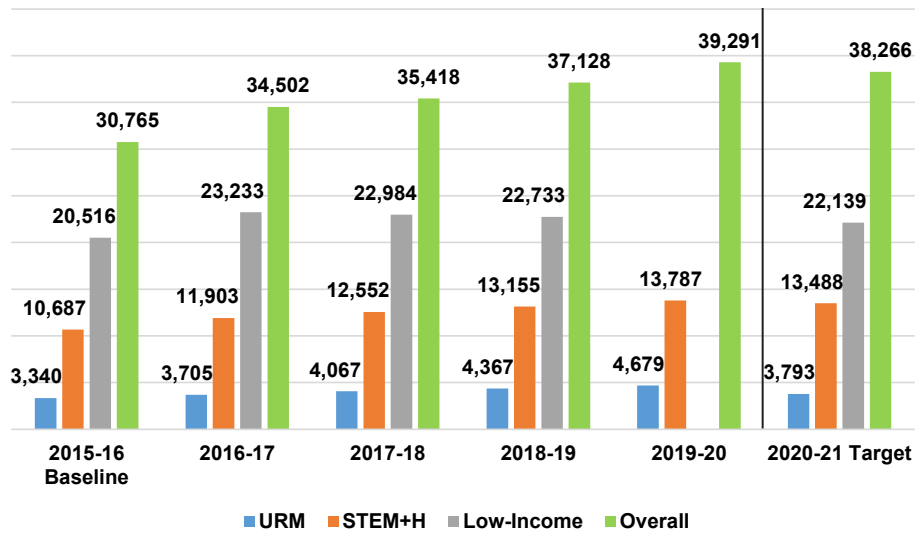


Statewide Completion Rate

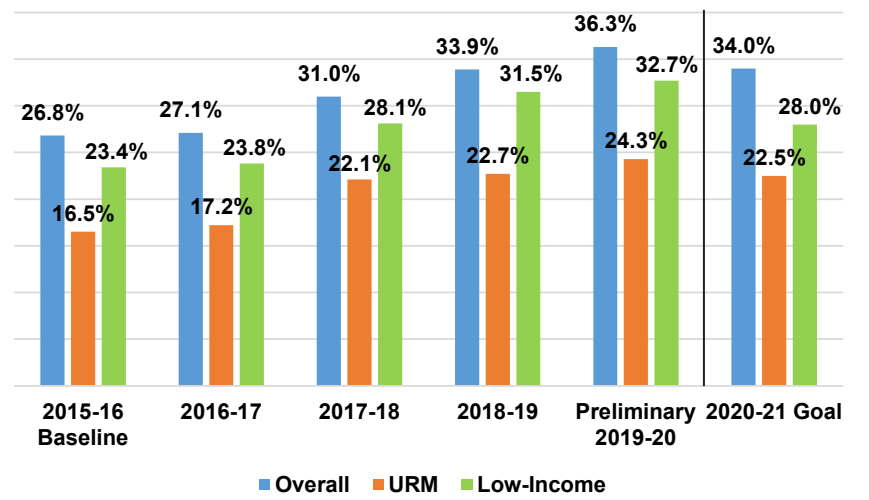


STATEWIDE TARGETS

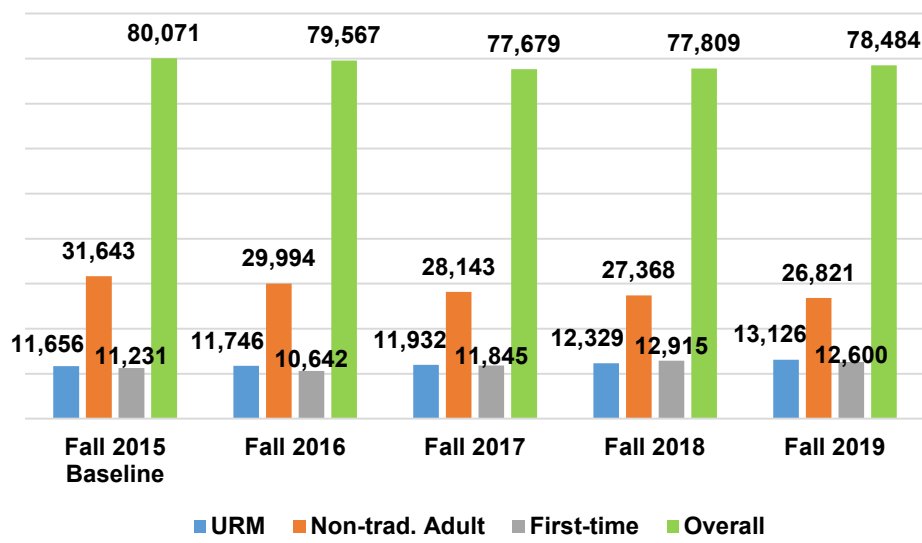
KCTCS Credentials Awarded: Associate or Less



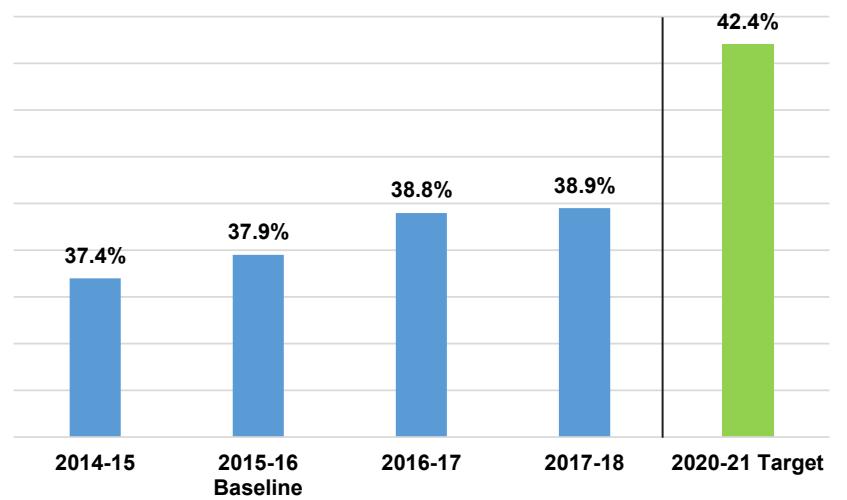
3-Year Graduation Rate at KCTCS



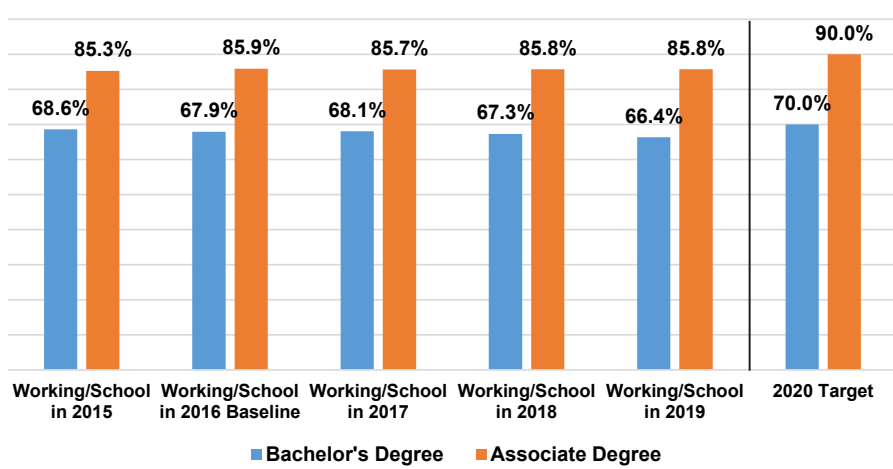
KCTCS Enrollment



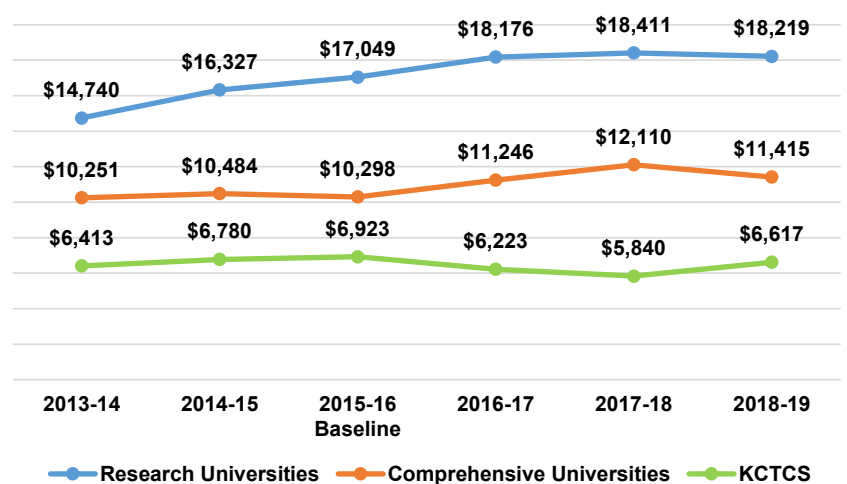
KCTCS Transfers with an Associate Degree



College Grads Working/Pursuing Education



Average Net Price



CPE Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Overview

Graduation Rate

- **Why is this measure important?** This measures the rate at which entering freshmen who attend full-time graduate within 150 percent of program length. This, in part, is a measure of the efficiency with which students' complete college and of how well students are persisting to a degree. A high value on this measure benefits a state in two important ways: 1) it leads to higher degree production and a better educated citizenry, and 2) the postsecondary pipeline is functioning better - students are moving through the pipeline at higher rates allowing more room for others to enter. This statistic does not account for transfers across institutions or part time students at time of entry.
- **What is the technical definition?** First-time, full-time credential-seeking students entering in the fall semester (or entering in the summer and returning in the fall), who graduate with a credential within six years (bachelor's degree) or three years (associate degree or certificate) from institution of entry, total and disaggregated by low-income and under-represented minority status.
- **How do we compare with national and regional performance?** According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the average bachelor's graduation rate for public universities is 60%. The Southern Regional Education Board reports that the average public university graduation rate in the southern region is 57% (year 2017-18, cohort 2011). According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the average 2-year institution graduation rate for is 22%. The Southern Regional Education Board reports that the average graduation rate in the southern region is 16.5%.
- **Key questions to consider:**
 - Are campuses making significant progress towards their targets? If so, what strategies have they employed? If not, what are the barriers?
 - Are campuses closing gaps between overall graduation rates and low-income, underrepresented minority student rates?

Completion Rate

- **Why is this measure important?** Unlike graduation rates, which only count graduations from the institution where the students begin their studies, completion rates provide a more holistic measure of student success. This measure captures the college completion of students at any public/private university or college within the Commonwealth, regardless of where they began their program. Like graduation rates, strong performance on this measure benefits

the state by leading to higher degree production and improved educational levels across the state. Unlike graduation rates, this statistic does account for transfers across institutions.

- **What is the technical definition?** First-time, full-time credential-seeking students entering in the fall semester (or entering in the summer and returning in the fall), who graduate with a credential at any time from a Kentucky public/private university or college in 6 years for a bachelor's degree and within three years for an associate degree or certificate. Note, campuses were not asked to set targets for this metric. National comparison benchmarks are included in the state-wide scorecard.
- **Key questions to consider:**
 - Are completion rates improving? If so, what strategies have they employed? If not, what are the barriers?
 - Are completion rates significantly different than graduation rates? If so, what is the cause?

First to Second Year Retention Rate

- **Why is this measure important?** Students are more likely to drop out of postsecondary education during the first year than any other time. If a state can implement policies that help to increase retention rates either within institutions or through transfer, the likelihood of students persisting to graduation is far greater.
- **What is the technical definition?** Percentage of first-time, full-time bachelor's degree-seeking students entering in the fall semester (or entering in the summer and returning in the fall), who return to the same institution to continue their studies the following fall, total and disaggregated by low-income and underrepresented minority status.
- **How do we compare with national and regional performance?** According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the average retention rate for public universities is 81%. The Southern Regional Education Board reports that the average public university rate in the southern region is 79%.
- **Key questions to consider:**
 - Are campuses making significant progress towards their targets? If so, what strategies have they employed? If not, what are the barriers?
 - Are campuses closing gaps between overall retention rates and low-income, underrepresented minority student rates?

Credentials Awarded

- **Why is this measure important?** Like graduation and completion rates, this measure captures the overall performance of institutions getting students to the finish line and completing their programs of study. The number of credentials awarded is closely related to enrollment.

However, the number degrees awarded can be increased by more high school students transitioning to college and by university strategies to improve retention and time to degree. Improved performance on this measure contributes to increased educational attainment, a stronger workforce, and improved opportunity for Kentucky citizens.

- **What is the technical definition?** Yearly production calculated by counting total number of credentials conferred (which is a duplicated student headcount) from July 1st to June 30th.
- **Key questions to consider:**
 - Are campuses making significant progress towards their targets? If so, what strategies have they used? If not, what are the barriers?
 - Is production growth equal to or exceeding 1.7% average annual growth rate (AAGR), which is the projected AAGR needed for state level progress towards the KY attainment goal (60% of KY residents will have a postsecondary credential by year 2030).
 - Are underrepresented minority and low-income yearly degree counts keeping pace with overall degree growth?

Undergraduate Enrollment

- **Why is this measure important?** Enrollment is a critical measure for each institution because it determines program demand and affordability within its service region and beyond. The measure is assessed by disaggregating first-time and adult students, which reflects high school graduates' interest in an institution and degree program, as well as adults' interest in pursuing additional workforce preparation. Enrollment numbers create the student pipeline for degree production, which contributes to increased KY educational attainment, a stronger workforce, and improved opportunity for Kentucky citizens.
- **What is the technical definition?** An unduplicated undergraduate headcount on fall census day, disaggregated by underrepresented minority, adult, and first-time students. Note, campuses were not asked to set targets for this metric.
- **Key questions to consider:**
 - Are enrollment trends for each campus similar to state level trends?
 - What factors influence first-time and adult enrollment?
 - Are underrepresented minority counts following overall enrollment trends?

Average Number of Credit Hours at Graduation

- **Why is this measure important?** This measure is an efficiency assessment for degree completion. Increasing time and credit hours to complete any degree creates a higher risk for dropping out and adds to the overall costs to students and families. Campuses are making efforts to reduce students' credit hours completed but not used toward required curriculum.

Examples of these credits include remedial coursework, transfer credit hours not accepted for major, and credit hours not used toward degree completion after change of major.

- **What is the technical definition?** Average credit hours earned by bachelor's degree graduates at four-year KY institutions and associate degree graduates at two-year KY colleges in KCTCS. Note, 120 academic credit hours are required for completion of a bachelor's degree and 60 hours for an associate degree.
- **Key questions to consider:**
 - Are campuses making significant progress towards their targets? If so, what strategies have they used? If not, what are the barriers?
 - Are averages trending downward closer to 120 and 69, which shows progress in decreasing unneeded credit hours and expenses?
 - For possible discussion (not presented on campus scorecards), do barriers vary by KY campus in terms of specific populations (for example transfer students) or specific academic programs?

Average Net Price

- **Why is this measure important?** Average Net Price is the most commonly used measure of affordability because it is standardized to calculate costs per student on every college campus. Net Price is often compared to "sticker price," a number that does not take into account the grants and scholarships students receive that offset the total cost. The metric provides an overarching 'view' to be monitored, analyzed and addressed accordingly.
- **What is the technical definition?** The total cost of education for a first-time, full-time undergraduate student, minus any grant or scholarship aid. Average institutional net price is generated by subtracting the average amount of federal, state/local government, or institutional grant and scholarship aid from the total cost of attendance. Total cost of attendance is the sum of published tuition and required fees (lower of in-district or in-state for public institutions), books and supplies, and the weighted average for room and board and other expenses. This is a federal government metric.
- **How do we compare with national and regional performance?** The national and the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) average net price for four-year public colleges and universities was \$14,200 in 2016-17. The national average net price for two-year public colleges and universities was \$7,200 in 2016-17 and was \$6,900 for the SREB. Note, campuses were not asked to set targets for this metric.
- **Key questions to consider:**
 - While price is increasing on most campuses, do averages remain below national and SREB benchmarks?
 - Do trends in average net price vary by students' family income? (For possible discussion, but note this question does not contain data on campus scorecards. The

federal system groups students by yearly family income: \$0-30K, \$30-48K, \$48-75K, \$75-\$110K, \$110K or higher).

Progress of Underprepared Students in Math and English

- **Why is this measure important?** Students entering Kentucky institutions not qualifying as college ready (“under-prepared”) are among the highest risk students for dropping out. These students are more likely to be minority, low-income or first-generation college student. Campuses have developed innovative programs, support systems and alternative pathways for underprepared students. This metrics assesses the effectiveness of these efforts and resource allocations.
- **What is the technical definition?** Percentage of first-time, full-time, credential-seeking undergraduates underprepared in English or mathematics who complete a credit-bearing course in that subject by the end of the fall semester a year after entry. Denominator: First-time, full-time undergraduate degree and credential-seeking students who were underprepared in English or Math (statewide college readiness standards incorporate all entrance exams used in the admissions process and all placement exams taken on campus) at entry (summer/fall semester). Numerator: the number who successfully completed at least one non-developmental course during the summer, fall, spring, or following summer /fall semester in English or Math. Successful course completion is defined as having a CPE standardized grade of A, B, C, D or P. There is no comparable national or regional data on this measure.
- **Key questions to consider:**
 - In the academic year 2016-17, KY public institutions began implementing a co-requisite model of developmental education to replace traditional remediation pathways for underprepared students. How is this strategy helping campuses beginning to trend higher on this measure?
 - More Kentucky students are testing “college-ready.” Has this changed the way campuses are providing support to their shrinking underprepared populations? Are they implementing more focused support systems?

Appendix: Description of Student Populations

Underrepresented Minority Student (URM): Black, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Hispanic or Latino, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and two or more races.

Low-Income Student (LI): A student who received a Pell grant during any time during his/her first year of undergraduate studies.

Adult Student: Working age student, 25-64 years of age.

First-Time Student: A student is to be identified as a first-time student if she has graduated from high school and has not previously earned credits in the degree level for which he/she is enrolled unless the credits were earned before graduation from high school.



Progress Update 60x30 KY Attainment Goal *2019-20 Degrees & Other Credentials*

David Mahan, Assoc. Vice President, Data, Research & Advanced Analytics Team
Lee Nimocks, Chief of Staff

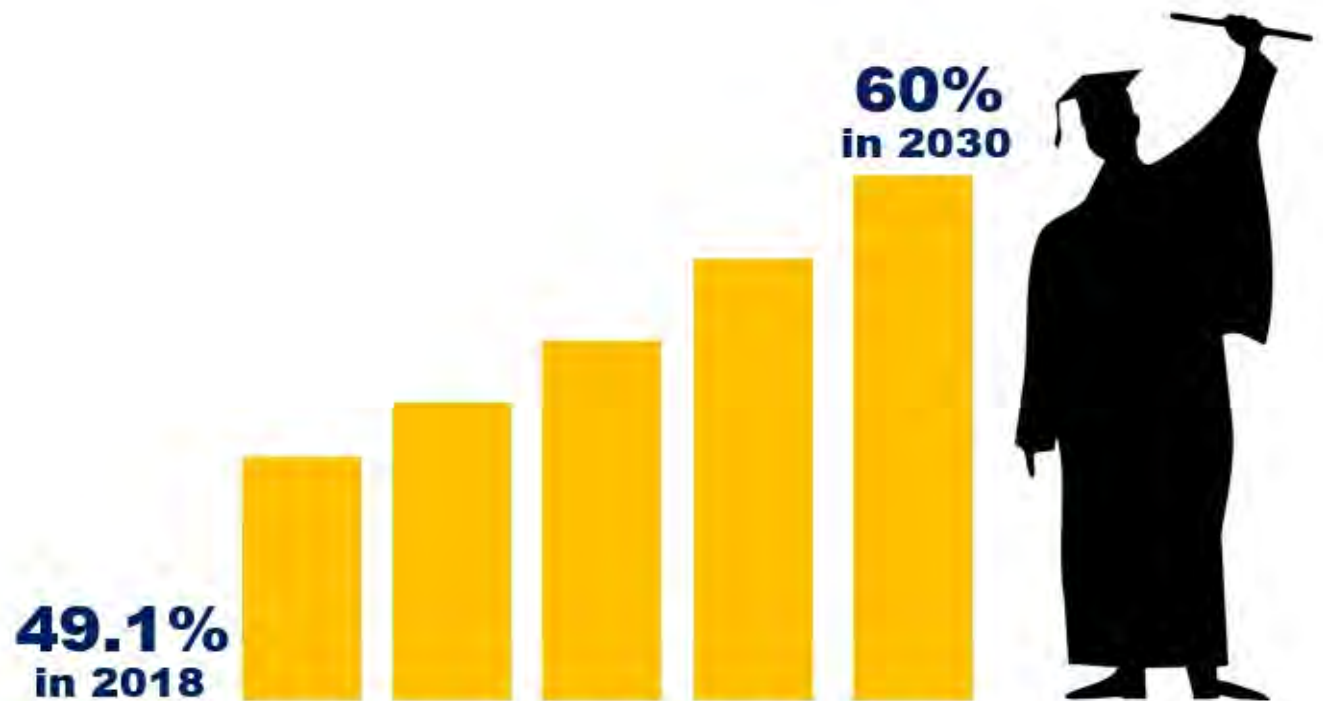
Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
November 13, 2020



60x30: Kentucky's Big Educational Goal

To expand opportunity and strengthen our workforce

*The Goal:
60% of
Kentuckians
(ages 25-64)
with a
postsecondary
certificate or
higher by the
year 2030.*



Source: The Lumina Foundation's "A Stronger Nation"

<http://cpe.ky.gov/ourwork/60x30.html>

Why is This Important?

- **Higher education levels equal higher income.**
In Kentucky, associate degree holders earn 14% more than high school graduates, and bachelor's degree holders earn 64% more.
- **Higher education means greater job security.**
The state workforce participation rate for bachelor's degree graduates is 20 percentage points higher than for high school graduates.
- **Degree completion is not keeping up with workforce needs.**
Only 49 percent of Kentuckians have credentials beyond high school diplomas, but over 60 percent of jobs will require postsecondary education within the next decade.
- **Economic downturns highlight the need for more education.**
99% of all new jobs created in the decade after the 2008 recession required some form of postsecondary education.
- **Educational attainment means more business.** Kentucky is ranked 42nd in the nation in workforce participation due in part to low education levels. This is a big deterrent to prospective businesses and industries.
- **Learning and credentials are evolving.** Today's workforce needs a higher learning system that allows education and skill development over a lifetime, not just in the 4-6 years following high school.
- **Jobs are changing.** Automation or outsourcing has eliminated the need for thousands of traditional blue-collar jobs that were once the backbone of the state's economy.

Kentucky is Making Progress

Kentucky is closing the attainment gap with the rest of the country



Source: The Lumina Foundation's A Stronger Nation
(Numbers represent percent of population 25-64 with a postsecondary certificate or higher)

Racial Gaps Persist

Educational Attainment (Associates level and above) for Kentuckians 25-64

Race	KY Attainment	Nat'l Attainment
Asian	56.5%	63.8%
Black	26.6%	31.6%
Hispanic	27.0%	24.5%
White	35.7%	47.9%
Total	36.0%	43.2%

Source: The Lumina Foundation's A Stronger Nation

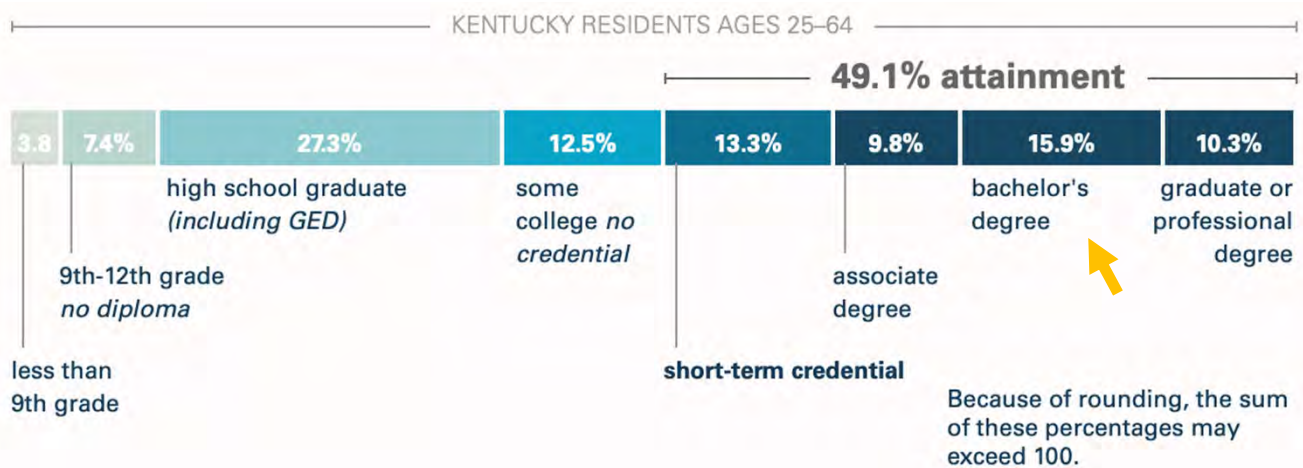
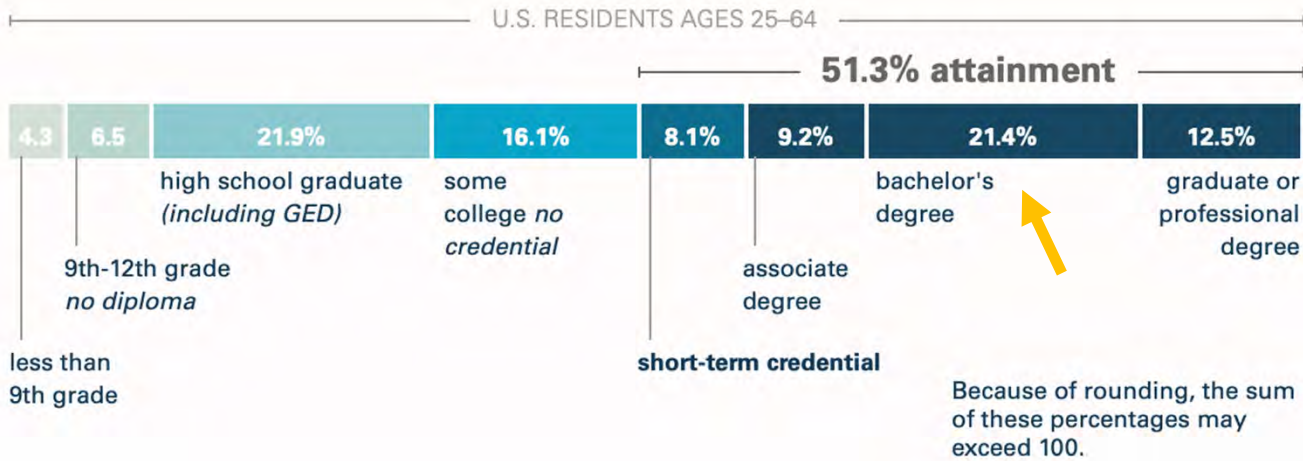
Location Matters



Average educational attainment levels (Associate and higher) varies widely by county from a low of **13.7% in Wolfe County to a high of **53.3%** in Oldham County.**

Higher levels of educational attainment are concentrated in more urban areas of the state, as well in regions hosting institutions of higher education.

Short-Term Credentials are Driving Growth



- Certificates and short-term credentials aligned with workforce needs are critical for KY's economy
- But Kentucky has fallen further behind the nation in terms of bachelor-degree and higher attainment
- For Kentucky to compete in this new knowledge economy, increased education is needed at all levels

Source: The Lumina Foundation's A Stronger Nation

KY Surpassing Annual Growth Rate Needed

Completers with undergraduate credentials grew 3.47% in 2018-19 (42,179 completers) and 3.29% in 2019-20 (43,567 completers)



Source: Kentucky Postsecondary Education Data System. (KPEDS)

Statewide Degrees & Credentials Awarded

Bachelor's Degrees

+0.6% (1 year ▲)

+8.3% (5 year ▲)

Certificates/ Diplomas

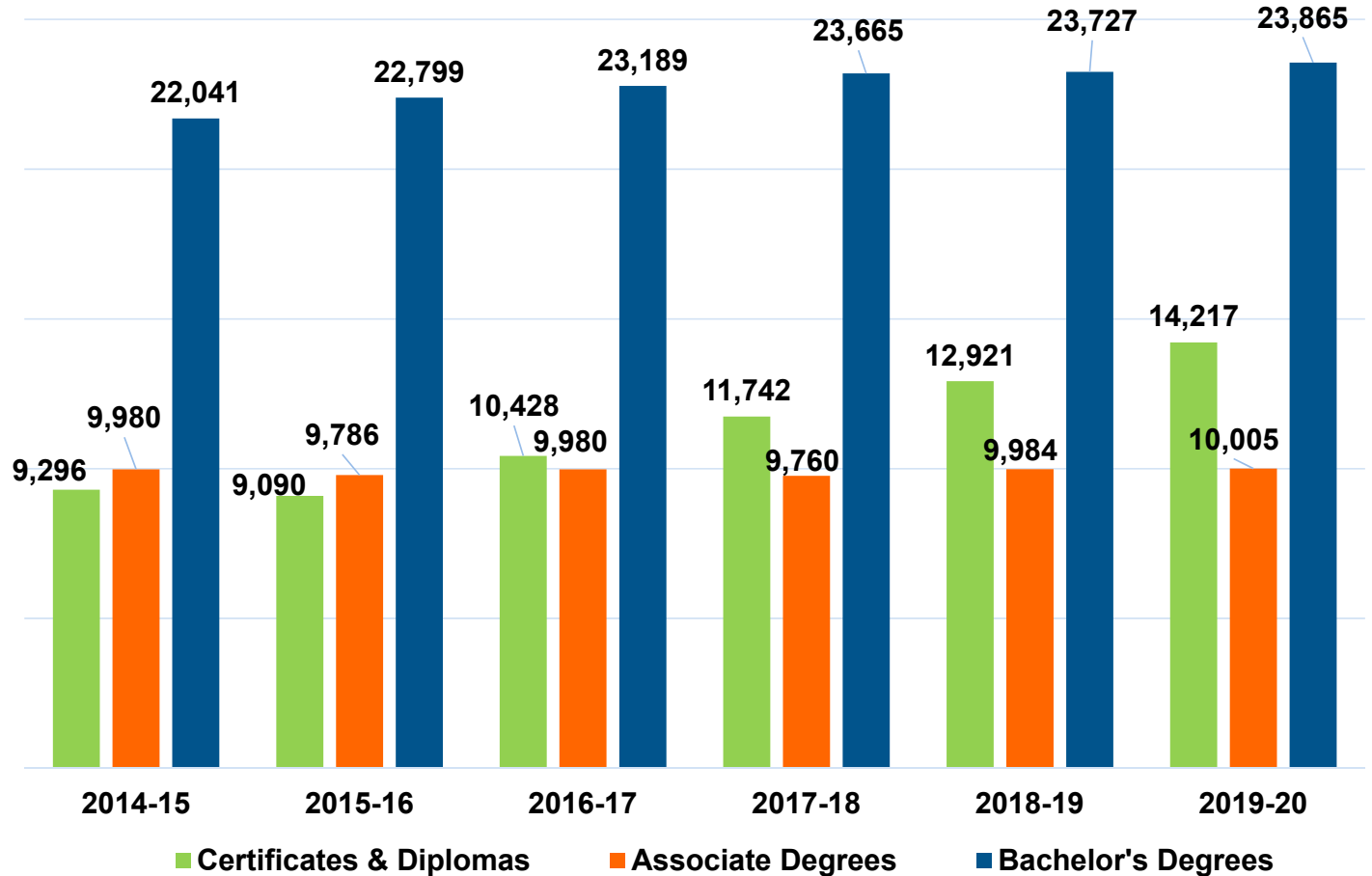
+10.0% (1 year ▲)

+52.9% (5 year ▲)

Associate Degrees

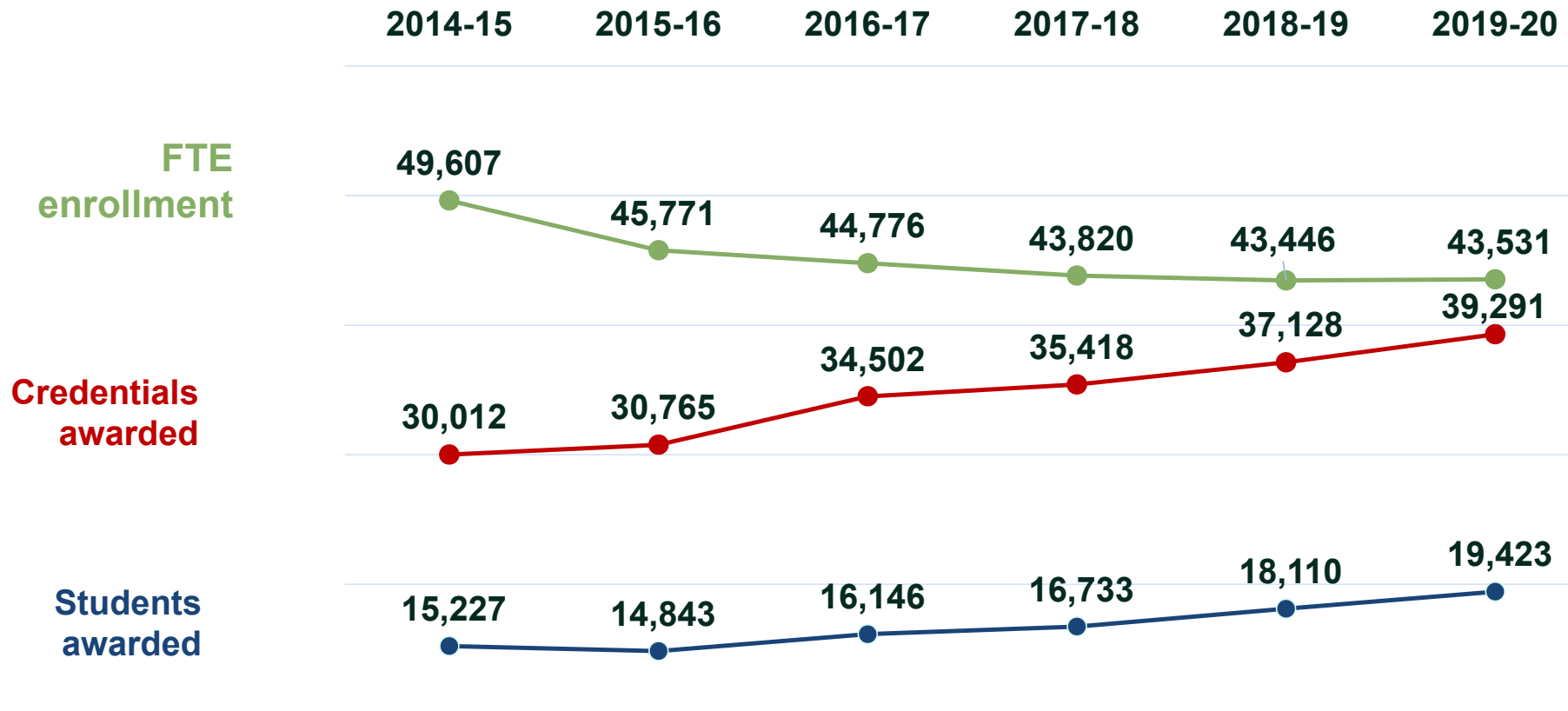
+0.2% (1 year ▲)

+0.2% (5 year ▲)



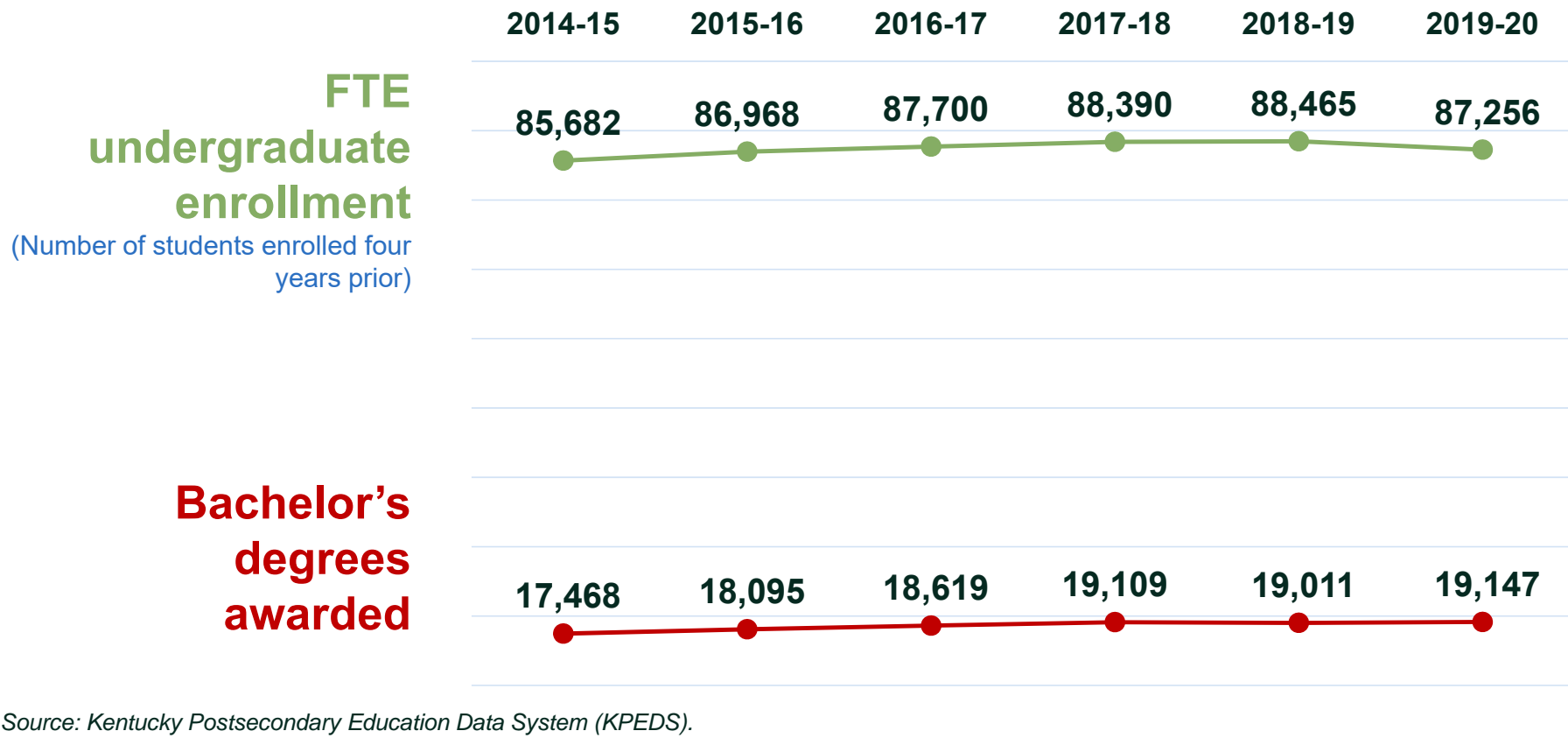
Source: Kentucky Postsecondary Education Data System (KPEDS). Associate Degrees and Certificates/Diplomas are unduplicated student counts (KCTCS).

KCTCS Credentials Increase Despite Enrollment Decline



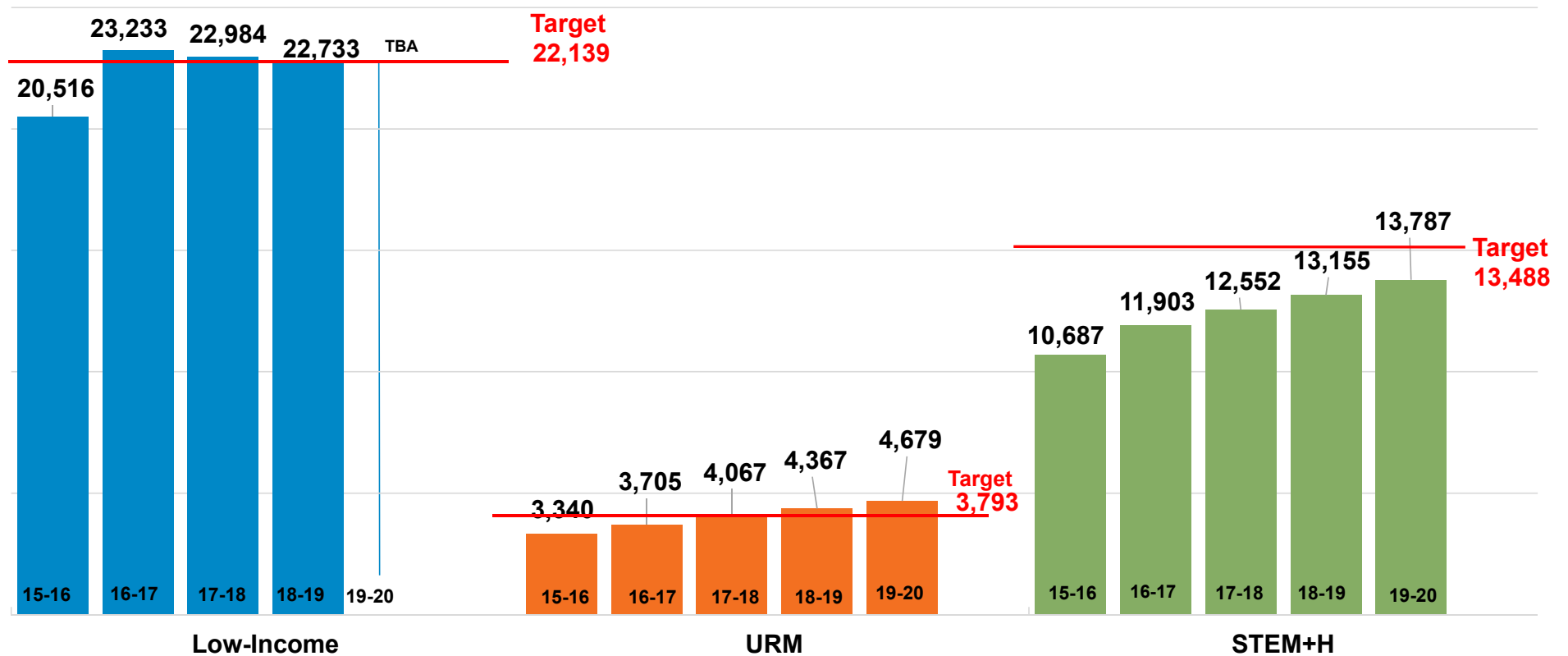
Source: Kentucky Postsecondary Education Data System (KPEDS).

Public Universities Bachelor's Degree Production & Enrollment – Small Growth in 2019-20



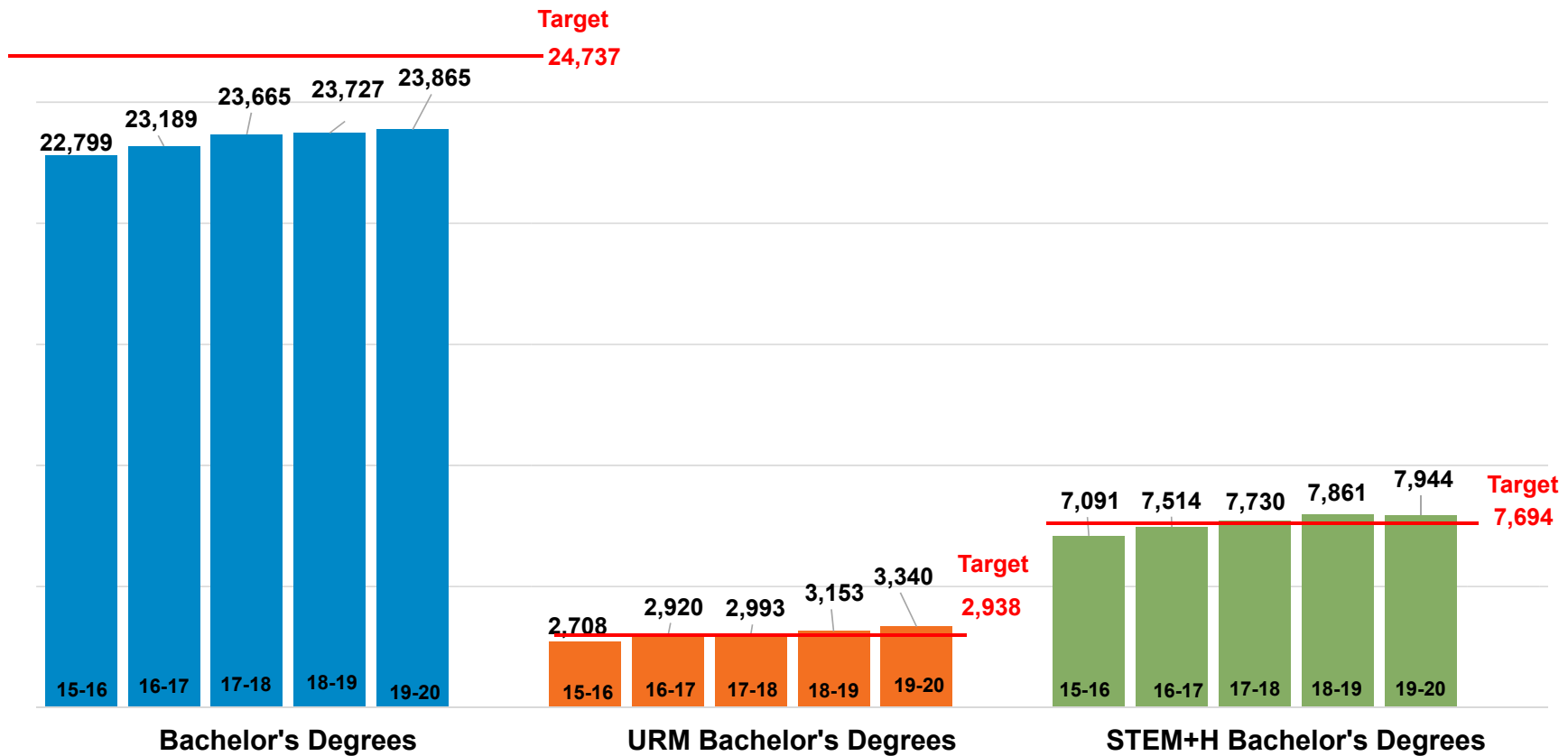
KCTCS Progress on State Priorities

Low-Income, URM, STEM-H Goals Met



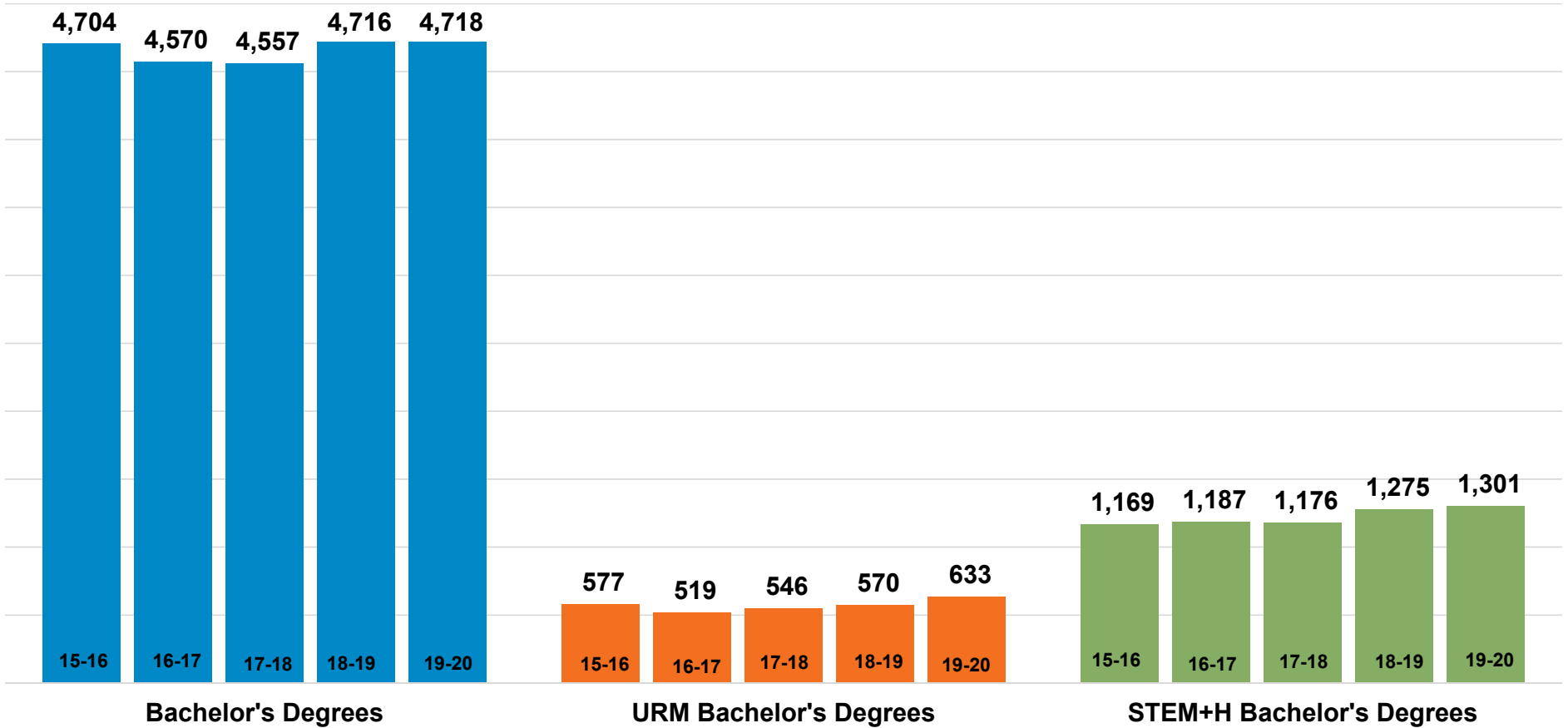
Source: Kentucky Postsecondary Education Data System (KPEDS).

Statewide Bachelor's Degrees (Public & Private) Progress on State Priorities



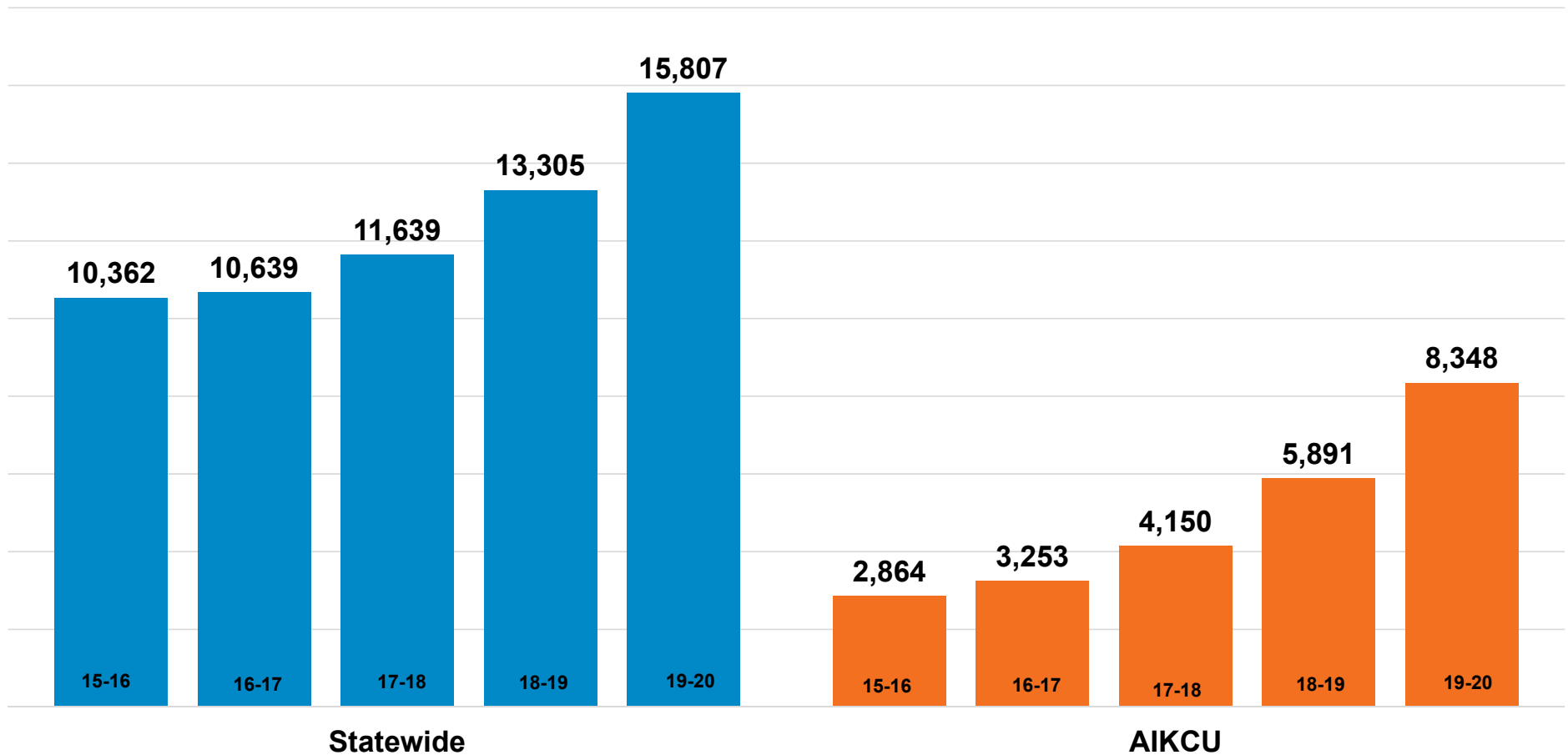
Source: Kentucky Postsecondary Education Data System (KPEDS).

AIKCU Progress on State Priorities



Source: Kentucky Postsecondary Education Data System (KPEDS).

Progress on Graduate/Professional Degrees



Source: Kentucky Postsecondary Education Data System (KPEDS).

Summary: KY 60x30 Attainment Goal

- Better alignment of education to work has facilitated growth in short-term credential production, driving much of Kentucky's progress
- Performance funding and student success initiatives have supported increases in bachelor's degree production in spite of enrollment declines
- Campus diversity plans have helped to increase the number of underrepresented minority (URM) student completions, outpacing overall growth and closing achievement gaps
- Adult enrollment and credential production has not improved from 2015 to 2020.

Source: The Lumina Foundation's A Stronger Nation

Next Assessment Reports

- January 28-29, 2021 University Presidents and KCTCS President assess institution level metrics, Kentucky Postsecondary Strategic Agenda
- Progress Report 2021, Kentucky Postsecondary Strategic Agenda
- Sector analysis of Kentucky Teachers (CPE/EMSI)
- Value of Kentucky sub-associate credentials (CPE/UK Martin School)
- Dual credit outcomes for KCTCS students
- Kentucky Return on Investment 'ROI 2.0' (CPE/KYSTATS)

Source: The Lumina Foundation's A Stronger Nation

Questions?



Twitter: CPENews and CPEPres



Website: <http://cpe.ky.gov>



Facebook: KYCPE



KY COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

TITLE: Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship Campaign

DESCRIPTION: A brief presentation featuring advertisements and digital media created for the Work Ready Kentucky marketing campaign, which will run from November 9 through June 30, 2021.

PRESENTER: Melissa Young, CPE's Executive Director of Special Projects

PROJECT OVERVIEW

In 2018, the Council on Postsecondary Education received a \$400,000 Adult Promise Grant from Lumina Foundation to encourage more working-age adults to return to college. Just over \$100,000 of this grant will support a radio and social media marketing campaign to promote the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship (KCTCS is providing around \$500,000). The scholarship, which is funded by the Kentucky Lottery, provides free (or reduced) tuition for certificate and applied associate programs in high-demand industry sectors (advanced manufacturing, business/IT, transportation/logistics, healthcare and construction). Since the vast majority of programs are offered by KCTCS, they developed the digital media, the associated website and a WRKS hotline, where adults can talk to a KCTCS staff person to determine program eligibility and be referred to a local campus.

The spokesperson for the campaign is Brian Scott (aka Buffalo Stille or B. Stille), the front man for Nappy Roots, a Grammy award-winning rap group from Bowling Green, Kentucky. Last year, B. Stille returned to University of Louisville and received a bachelor's degree in organizational leadership. He recorded a 30-second radio spot, which will air primarily on Spotify and Pandora, as well as a 90-second video that will appear in Facebook ads and other social media platforms.

Partners in this effort include KCTCS, Kentucky Lottery, Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA), Education and Workforce Development Cabinet, The Graduate! Network, the Governor's Office, Prichard Committee, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, Kentucky Association of Manufacturers, AARP and educational providers of the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship Program.

Faesy, Heather M (CPE)

From: Governor's Communications Office <governor@subscriptions.kentucky.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 12:05 PM
To: Faesy, Heather M (CPE)
Subject: Gov. Beshear Announces New Campaign Aimed at Helping Adults to go to College



OFFICE OF GOVERNOR ANDY BESHEAR
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Crystal Staley
502-545-3714

Sebastian Kitchen
502-330-0799
502-564-2611

**Gov. Beshear Announces New Campaign Aimed at
Helping Adults to go to College**

*Scholarship campaign kicks off with hip-hop artist Buffalo "B." Stille of Nappy
Roots*

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Nov. 9, 2020) – Never Underestimate You! That's the mantra behind a new campaign Gov. Andy Beshear announced today for the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship, an effort to boost education and employability among adults.

Multiple Kentucky colleges and universities offer over 350 course offerings in high-demand programs in health care, manufacturing, business and information technology, construction/skilled trades and transportation/logistics.

Kentuckians can call 833-711-WRKS or visit <https://workreadykentucky.com> to receive assistance from advisors on how to enroll in the program.

“Building a better Kentucky means supporting educational opportunities for every Kentucky family,” Gov. Beshear said. “During this ongoing pandemic when many Kentuckians are seeking new opportunities this scholarship can help students get free or reduced tuition to take industry-specific, short-term courses that prepare them to get to work in weeks, or they can even choose to earn an associate degree.”

Hip-hop artist Buffalo “B.” Stille of Nappy Roots created a rap about the scholarship that is featured by the campaign. To view the video, [click here](#).

Stille, a Grammy and American Music Awards nominee, recently earned his bachelor’s degree. The Louisville resident and Kentucky native champions education as the key to a better life. His rap urges Kentuckians to “Never underestimate you!”

“I believe that education is the one thing that nobody can take away from you,” said Stille. “The Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship program is amazing because it offers a lot of different skills sets and is tuition free. If I can go back to school, anybody can do it.”

The scholarship, which began in 2017, covers the remaining cost of tuition and fees after federal, state and campus grants and scholarships are applied. It provides up to 60 hours of tuition for anyone who has not yet earned an associate degree in specific technical programs.

Scholarship awards are offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Participating campuses verify each student’s eligibility, including enrollment in an approved program.

Courses are available through the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), Campbellsville University, Eastern Kentucky University, Galen College of Nursing, MedQuest College, Northern Kentucky University, Sullivan University, University of Kentucky and Western Kentucky University.

Funded by the Kentucky Lottery, the scholarship award cannot exceed the in-state tuition and fee rate for enrollment at the Kentucky Community and Technical College System.

The Work Ready campaign is a partnership between KCTCS, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, Kentucky Lottery, Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority, Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet, The Graduate Network, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, Kentucky Association of Manufacturers, Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence and AARP Kentucky. It is also supported and partially funded by Lumina Foundation.

For more information, visit <https://workreadykentucky.com>.

###



Questions? [Contact us](#)



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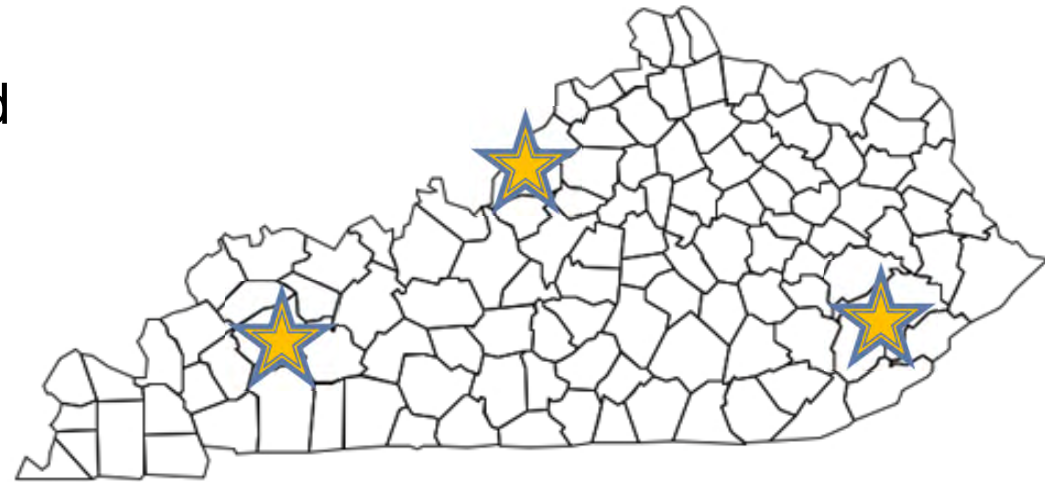
Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship Campaign

Meilssa Young, Executive Director
Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
November 13, 2020



Kentucky Adult Promise Grant

- \$400,000 grant from Lumina Foundation
- \$60K subgrants to 3 KCTCS campuses – Hazard, Jefferson, and Madisonville
- Ambassador pilot program in partnership with The Graduate! Network
- Adult Learner Convening
- Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship campaign



WORK READY

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Fueled by the KY Lottery

Request information

Call us at: 833-711-WRKS

Tuition Paid.

B. Stille
Of the Nappy Roots

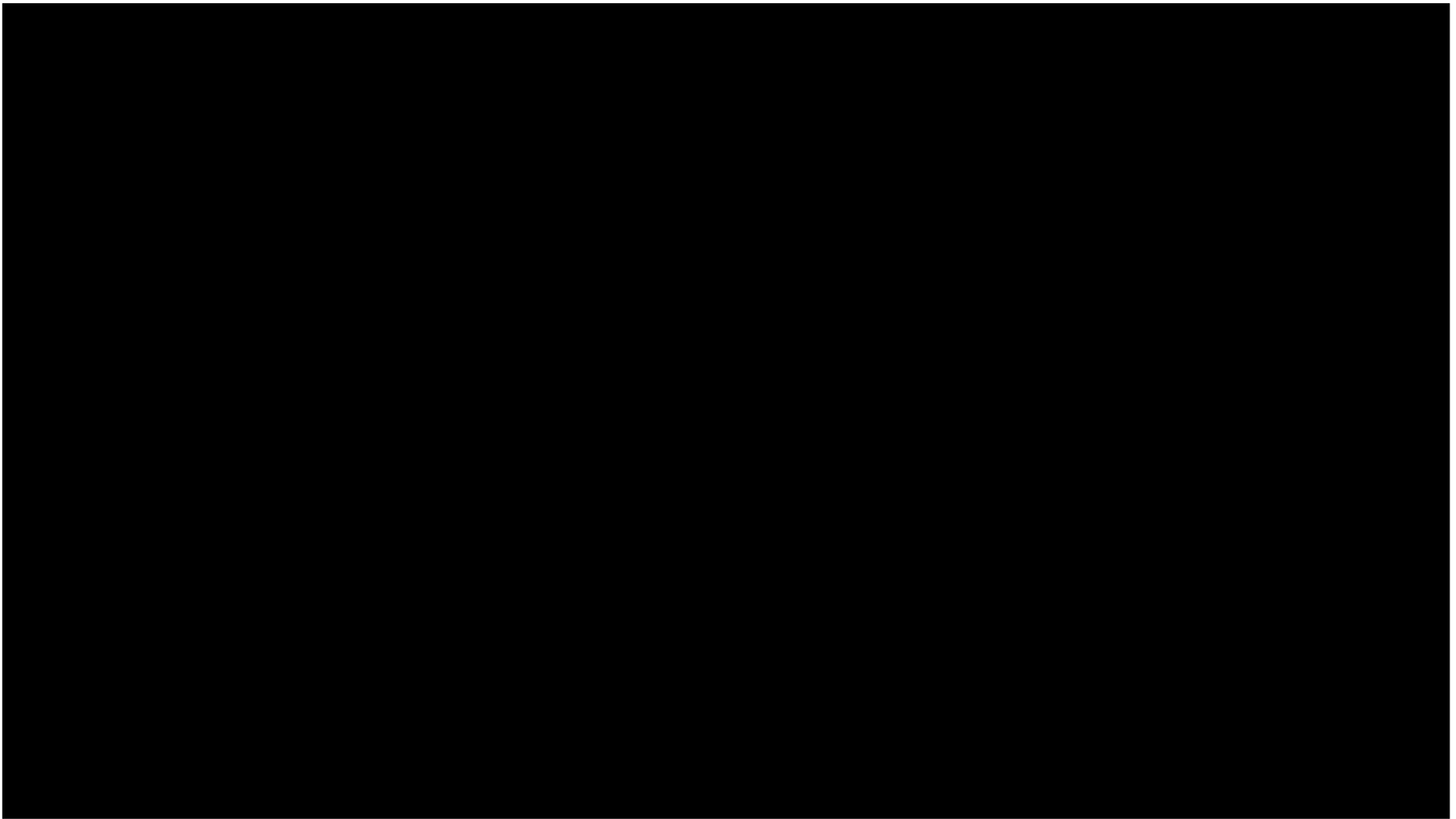
[Find your program](#) [How to apply](#) [College contacts](#)

Got any questions? I'm happy to help.

WEBSITE: [HTTPS://WORKREADYKENTUCKY.COM/](https://workreadykentucky.com/)

Our Partners





Embedded Video can be found at: <https://youtu.be/DHWUAPrazh8>



CPE REPORT

Eastern Kentucky University News for the Council on Postsecondary Education



NEW COLONEL COMMITMENT SCHOLARSHIP MODEL TO IMPROVE STUDENT ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Eastern Kentucky University is continually improving student affordability and access to advanced education through innovative scholarship models. For Fall 2021, the University announced it would have new merit and need-based scholarships for Kentucky residents. The focus on successful student outcomes will continue to ensure EKU's status as the School of Opportunity.

The new model allows students to receive substantial scholarships to cover tuition and fees costs without a qualifying ACT score. Grade point averages ranging from 3.0 to 3.8 qualify for merit-based scholarships. The criteria and amounts are as follows:

\$6,000 for 3.8 GPA

\$4,000 for 3.3-3.7 GPA

\$3,000 for 3.0-3.2 GPA

Additionally, with a qualifying ACT score of 28 or above and a 3.8 GPA, the new scholarship model provides up to \$9,266 — the full cost of tuition and fees — to any Kentucky student.

Any Madison County resident who achieves a 2.5 GPA and wants to attend EKU will receive the Madison County Promise, which guarantees a minimum \$1,000 scholarship, and is also eligible to stack that aid with other need-based or foundation scholarships.

Eastern Kentucky University also has new need-based scholarships that it will offer in Fall 2021. The “Colonel Commitment” Scholarship is an EKU Advantage need-based scholarship for any Pell Grant-eligible student. The scholarship will cover up to 100 percent of tuition and fees for first-year students who have a 3.0 high school GPA. This scholarship is intended to act as “gap funding” for any student who has exhausted all avenues of federal, state and institutional scholarship and grant assistance, and still has a remaining balance for tuition and required fees.

“The introduction of the Colonel Commitment, Madison County Promise, and restructured merit model will directly impact the accessibility of the transformative Eastern Experience for Kentucky students,” said EKU President Dr. David McFaddin. “These changes will ensure that more students receive aid and that the University is bridging the gap for our students with the most financial need.”

For more information about the EKU Advantage, visit advantage.eku.edu. For specific scholarship information, including more details about the new scholarship models, visit advantage.eku.edu/scholarships.



BERMANS DONATE \$1 MILLION TO CENTER FOR PROFESSIONAL SALES

As industry demand for sales professionals continues to grow, a long-time business executive who knows the need firsthand has stepped up to support an up-and-coming academic program in the Eastern Kentucky University School of Business.

A \$1 million gift from Louis and Maribeth Berman, of Louisville, has enabled the School's Center for Professional Sales, which now bears the Bermans' name, to secure space and equipment, increase faculty support and provide for scholarships and more competition opportunities for students. The program currently offers a sales certificate, but will expand to encompass a minor in Spring 2021, followed by a major.

Mr. Berman, senior vice president with AssuredPartners, has spent much of his career in commission sales and "studied many different sales strategies and concepts. Many people think that if you have a good or outgoing personality, then you'd likely be good at sales, and that just isn't always the case. There are proven strategies, methodologies, concepts and plans that students can study, and even an introverted person can master sales skills.

"Having spent most of the last 40 years hiring, training and mentoring sales people, I recognize the need for a pipeline of more sales professionals. Most recently, at my company, we have been looking to sales programs across the country to recruit new sales professionals. Additionally, sales people are high-income earners and have the personality to give back."

That has certainly been the case with the Bermans, long-time ECU benefactors whose support has included a \$4 million planned gift to the University, announced in 2019.

"Maribeth (the former Maribeth McBride, a Richmond native, 1992 ECU grad and former University administrator) and I are excited about our gift to support the growth and success of the program," Mr. Berman said.

Currently, more than 60 ECU students are pursuing a sales certificate through the program, with more enrolled in one or more classes, according to Executive Director Dr. Lee Allison, who spent decades in sales prior to joining the Eastern faculty.

For more information about the ECU chapter of Pi Sigma Epsilon, the only national co-ed professional fraternity in the fields of sales, marketing and management, visit www.pse.org/eku.

MEKONNEN BREAKS BARRIERS IN SGA

Eastern Kentucky University's newly-elected student body president, Eyouel Mekonnen, is the first international student ever elected to the position. He moved from Ethiopia to Kentucky in 2016. He is also the first Black student body president ECU has seen in more than 40 years.

"I never want another student to feel intimidated or overwhelmed by the idea of joining the Student Government Association," he said.

He ran for and won a seat as a student senator, and worked his way up from there. His sophomore and junior years he served as the Director of Diversity in the Executive Office of the President.

"I remember the moment I found out that I had won the student senator seat my freshman year," said Mekonnen, "And I told myself at that moment that I would be the best student senator that I can be."

Mekonnen and his vice president Nick Kiong ran their campaign on four core values that they plan to implement throughout their term. Those values include: Student Rights, Sustainability, Mental Health Awareness and Advocacy, and Mental Health as a whole.

"If I, an African immigrant who moved here five years ago, can run for student body president and win. Then the students who are coming in from our international community, our appalachian community, our communities that are primarily of color who are saying can see that this is possible," said Mekonnen,

Mekonnen is a senior English and Political Science major and plans to graduate in May of 2021. After graduation, he plans to continue his education by obtaining a master's degree.



KCTCS GOOD NEWS REPORT

NOVEMBER 2020

NEW WORK READY KENTUCKY SCHOLARSHIP CAMPAIGN ENCOURAGES ADULTS TO GO TO COLLEGE



**BUFFALO "B" STILLE
NAPPY ROOTS**

Never underestimate YOU! That's the mantra behind a new campaign for the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship, which is targeted primarily to undereducated, underemployed or unemployed adults.

The scholarship, which began in 2017, offers up to 60 hours of free tuition for anyone that has not yet earned a degree. It covers a wide variety of technical programs in health care, manufacturing, business/IT, construction/skilled trades and transportation/logistics. However, awareness of the scholarship is low due to lack of funding for a strong advertising campaign. But that is about to change.

The Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) is creating the campaign in partnership with the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, the Kentucky Lottery, the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority, the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet, The Graduate Network and the Lumina



KENTUCKY
COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL
COLLEGE SYSTEM



WORK READY

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Ready. Set. Work.

you.” Stille is a Louisville resident and Kentucky native.

Kentucky has one of the lowest educational attainment rates in the country. The lack of a highly educated, skilled workforce has a negative impact on the state’s ability to attract and retain businesses. It also has a negative impact on Kentuckians’ quality of life. Further, COVID-19 made the situation worse by causing thousands to lose their jobs. Now is the time for those who are unemployed or underemployed to retrain for the careers of today and tomorrow.

“In our role as the primary provider of workforce training in Kentucky, KCTCS believes this scholarship is one of the best ways to prepare people for good careers,” KCTCS Interim President Paul Czarapata said. “Many programs are eligible under the scholarship and students pay no tuition at all. They can take industry-specific, short-term courses that prepare them to get to work in weeks, or they can choose to earn an associate degree.”

Foundation. The campaign is also receiving support from Kentucky’s four-year universities that participate in the Work Ready program, the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers, the Prichard Committee and AARP.

Gov. Andy Beshear kicks off the new campaign with an announcement and preview of a campaign video the week of Nov.9. Ads will run on Spotify and Pandora and be seen via digital channels and social media. Special events also are being planned.

Hip-hop artist Buffalo “B.” Stille of the Nappy Roots created a rap about the scholarship and scholarship hotline (833-711-WRKS) that will be used in the ads. Stille, a Grammy and American Music Awards nominee, recently earned his bachelor’s degree and is a proponent of education as the best way to create a better life. His rap urges Kentuckians to “Never underestimate





GOOD NEWS

NOVEMBER 2020

*Kentucky State University
confers more than 200 degrees at commencement*

More than 200 Kentucky State University graduates officially earned their degrees Friday, Oct. 16 during the Spring 2020 Commencement Convocation at Alumni Stadium. Nurses, educators, business professionals, computer scientists, social workers and future leaders of all kinds now go forth from the University, ready for the next level of success.

Rev. Dr. Jamal-Harrison Bryant, senior pastor of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Lithonia, Georgia and founding pastor of Empowerment Temple AME Church in Baltimore, Maryland, who received the Doctor of Humane Letters honorary degree from Kentucky State, delivered the commencement address. “Don’t forget whose eyes you’re looking through,” Bryant said. “You’re seeing through the eyes of grandmothers who took out a second mortgage. You’re looking through the eyes of your church home who sold pound cake and fried chicken dinners just so you could have a book scholarship. Understand the eyes you have are not yours. You are seeing the world through the lens of somebody a generation that went before you.”

As the class that was born after 9/11 and is living through COVID-19, Bryant applauded the resilience of the class and encouraged them to continue doing great things. “You are not here just for window dressing,” Bryant said. “Break the glass ceiling and change the world as we know it.” Derek Roberts, who finished with a computer science degree, was the class valedictorian. Roberts said his four years at Kentucky State were a metamorphosis for him. “Loneliness was my gospel,” Roberts said. “Isolation was my form of worship. Depression and grief had compounded me into a cocoon of isolation. That was the man who enrolled in this university four years ago.”

As time passed, Roberts said healing took place. “Peers became friends, professors became mentors,” Roberts said. Roberts emphasized to the audience that they are not alone. “You don’t hear one voice in these streets demanding change, you hear a community,” Roberts said. “You are not alone.”

President Brown announced interesting facts about the class of 2020: the average age for a bachelor’s graduate is 22 and the average age for a master’s graduate is 32; the oldest graduate – George Watkins – is 63 years old. Twenty one states are represented in the graduating class, as well as graduates from the Congo and Saudia Arabia.

Musical guest and national recording artist KeKe Wyatt brought the house down with musical selections “Great is Thy Faithfulness,” “For Every Mountain,” “If Only You Knew” and “I Will Always Love You.” President Brown honored and acknowledged the golden graduates of the class of 1970, celebrating their 50th anniversary, with Alazene Walker Johnson providing the class response.

Kentucky State University also recognized its 2020 Founder’s Day award winners. Dr. Carl H. Smith received the John Henry Jackson Achievement Award. Brigadier General Henry L. Huntley received the Rufus Ballard Atwood Heritage Award. W. Ronald Lilly received the Kentucky State University Thorobred Award. BMW Academy in Lexington received the Jackson Hall Award. Jason Fullman, Sheila Burton Mason, David Neville and Katrisha Waldrige received the Presidential Citation for Excellence.

President Brown gave each graduate their first \$20 instead of the traditional \$2. President Brown also brought in surprise special guest Poppa Hussein, who brought the graduates to their feet with his hit “I’m Lit.”



KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY REDEDICATES THE RUFUS B. ATWOOD AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER

Kentucky State University is rededicated the Rufus B. Atwood Agricultural Research Center with federal, state and local officials on hand, as well as members of the Kentucky State University Board of Regents and other distinguished guests.

The building, which was previously used as a cafeteria and later for research, has been renovated with help from a \$7.5 million USDA facility grant program that was included in the most recently passed Farm Bill. The renovations include modern classrooms, labs, offices and ample seating for studying areas, as well as designated study rooms.

“Today, as Kentucky State University rededicates the Rufus B. Atwood Agricultural Research Center, we would like to thank United States Congressman Andy Barr for his continuous support of Kentucky State University and its land-grant mission,” President M. Christopher Brown II said. “We would also like to thank Senior Advisor Rocky Adkins, Representative Derrick Graham, Franklin County Judge/Executive Huston Wells for their continued support. This state-of-the-art agricultural research center will increase Kentucky State’s capacity for innovative teaching, research and service opportunities for our faculty and students, contributing greatly to the economy of the Commonwealth and the United States.”

Barr said with this investment, Kentucky State is contributing materially to American competitiveness. “With this investment, Kentucky State is creating unbelievable opportunities for students and contributing to the important mission of making America more competitive,” Barr said. Dr. Elaine Farris, Kentucky State University Board of Regents Chair, was in attendance for the historic occasion. “This renovation represents more than just the state-of-the-art classrooms and teaching laboratories for the College of Agriculture, Communities, and the Sciences,” Farris said. “It represents the hope of our future and unlimited opportunities for our faculty, and most importantly, our students.”

Representative Derrick Graham, a Kentucky State alumnus, was also in attendance. “I am forever grateful for the federal funding that made this possible,” Graham said. “At the same time, we can all agree, cannot put a price on what this facility will mean to those who use it. It will pay back its costs many times in decades ahead. I cannot wait to see what work is done here. This is a moment that will define us for generations to come.”

BECOME ONLY KENTUCKY AND FIRST HBCU MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF PUBLIC LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGES (COPLAC)

Kentucky State University is the newest member to join the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC).

The first HBCU and only university in Kentucky to be nominated and awarded membership, University officials are honored and excited to become part of COPLAC. The COPLAC board voted unanimously to admit Kentucky State University at its Oct. 15 meeting.

“This is an outstanding opportunity for Kentucky State University to benchmark itself with like-minded peer institutions nationwide and in Canada,” Kentucky State University President, M. Christopher Brown II said. “We have the opportunity to share our experiences in liberal learning as practiced here and to benefit from the multiple enrichment pathways afforded to us as members of the COPLAC consortium.”

Founded in 1987, COPLAC is composed of 28 current members. Kentucky State University becomes its 29th member. Membership is limited to public universities and colleges that demonstrate a dedication to liberal arts education as the best and most comprehensive preparation for a life of purpose and meaning within society.

At present, only one university or college is considered for inclusion by the COPLAC Board of Directors, making Kentucky State University’s membership all the more notable as the designated liberal arts university within Kentucky higher education.

Housed at the University of North Carolina in Asheville, COPLAC member schools participate in conferences and leadership training for students, faculty summer institutes on enhancing teaching and learning within the liberal arts tradition, an annual meeting, and scholarships and publications for students to support and celebrate their achievements.

In 2020, COPLAC launched a new collaborative learning opportunity with an online course exchange consortium designed to allow students to enroll in courses at other COPLAC campuses to increase their curriculum.

The process to become a COPLAC member is rigorous. Kentucky State began its application in 2019 with an in-person meeting, which led to the submission of a formal application outlining the commitment to the liberal arts and the pervasive influence of the rich tradition of the liberal arts in all its degree and certificate programs. The written application was then advanced with an initial on-site visit from COPLAC leadership in the fall 2019 and a formal, virtual site visit completed in fall 2020.

KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY ESTABLISHES W.O.K.E. TASK FORCE

Kentucky State University President Dr. M. Christopher Brown II established the W.O.K.E. Task Force to assist students in uplifting, educating, and empowering the campus community and those most impacted by unequal protection under the law. President Brown scheduled a campus-wide Zoom meeting to discuss meaningful ways the University could support students disappointed in the grand jury decision concerning Breonna Taylor.

“Kentucky State University students understand Black lives matter and Black colleges’ power and purpose, and recognize the need for their fellow students to organize in an effort to eliminate and dismantle systems that oppress our communities,” President Brown said.

The W.O.K.E. Task Force is co-chaired by Student Government Association President Kirk Miller and Miss Kentucky State University Yasmine Harper. Additional student members include Mahogany Shelton, Christian White and Savion Briggs. Dr. Erin Gilliam, dean of the Whitney Young Honors Collegium and associate professor of history, vice president for Student Engagement and Campus Life and chief diversity officer Dr. Derek Greenfield, executive director of University College Dr. Walter Malone, business manager of executive operations Nikki McZee, and senior vice president for Brand Identity and University Relations Clara Ross Stamps collaborate with the students.

“President Brown understands our emotions are broad and varying. He is a scholar on Black colleges and recognizes our history of activism, and supports our efforts to create real change,” said Kirk, SGA president.

Current initiatives of the task force include:

- Encourage students to take a photo with a Black Lives Matter t-shirt being distributed by the University on Thursday and Friday. These photos will be printed and displayed on the Hill overlooking Main Street so that members of our community can hear our pain and see our greatness. Students will also be provided with an opportunity to register to vote.
- Create Direct Action Training opportunities on campus (in accordance with all safety guidelines) next week and beyond, so that students can receive meaningful education that activates their activism on issues of injustice and offers ways to create sustainable movements for change.
- Provide safe spaces for students and employees to continue to share openly and learn from one another.

Kentucky State University stands committed to taking action every day to make the world a better place. Our students stand committed to carrying the torch of freedom fighters like our distinguished alumnus, Whitney M. Young. Our campus will be a sacred place that endeavors to lift every voice and encourages real change.

MSU recognizes faculty and staff through Distinguished Service Awards



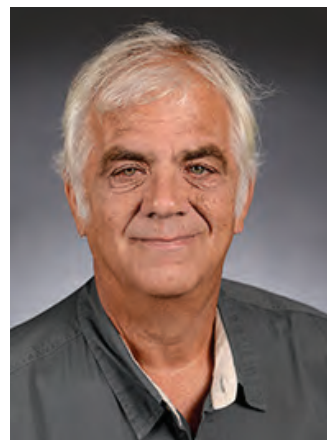
Dr. Christopher Beckham



Dr. David Eisenhour



Toni Hobbs



Dr. Gary O'Dell

Morehead State University is recognizing faculty and staff for their service and teaching by announcing the 2020 recipients of MSU's Distinguished Service Awards.

Dr. Christopher Beckham, assistant professor of education, was honored with the Distinguished Faculty Service Award. Dr. David Eisenhour, professor of biology, was given the Distinguished Teacher Award. Toni Hobbs, director of creative and branding services, was awarded the Distinguished Staff Service Award. Dr. Gary O'Dell, professor of geology, received the Distinguished Researcher Award.

Morehead State partners with National Rural Education Association for Appalachian Hub

Morehead State University's Ernst & Sara Lane Volgenau College of Education is partnering with the National Rural Education Association to create a new Appalachian Hub. As part of the Rural Schools Collaborative (RSC) mission, this hub will assist rural schools and teachers from a four-state Appalachian region (Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia and North Carolina). These RSC hubs, established in various states and territories across the U.S., help RSC and partners exchange stories and information, collaborate on projects and seek funding opportunities to support rural schools.

Dr. Antony Norman, dean of the Volgenau College of Education, said he is encouraged by this partnership's possibilities. "This collaborative in particular is giving us some really concrete examples and models," Norman said. "As we look at other models, we can start to find markers of success that go beyond meeting accreditation and state standards. We can start to say, here are four or five skills, values, beliefs that we want to instill in our students that would make them, beyond just good rural educators, but the best of the best."

Grupe and colleagues observe black hole flare

Dr. Dirk Grupe, associate professor of astrophysics and space science and Morehead State, recently used NASA's NuSTAR telescope to detect a flare from one of the most massive black holes known. Grupe made the observation along with his colleague, Stephanie Komossa at the Max Plank Institute of Radio Astronomy in Bonn, Germany. Grupe's students at MSU assisted with the project by analyzing the data collected by Grupe and Komossa.

Schack named 2020-21 ARC Appalachian Leadership Institute Fellow

Dr. Edna Schack, professor of education at Morehead State University and co-director of MSUTeach, has been named one of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Appalachian Leadership Institute (ALI) Fellows for 2020-21.

"We are so proud that Dr. Schack will represent Morehead State University, the Ernst and Sara Lane Volgenau College of Education, and our region in the ALI program," said Dr. Antony Norman, dean of the Volgenau College of Education. "Edna's recent efforts to increase the number of math and science teachers MSU prepares are just one indicator of her heart for, and lifelong career dedicated to, our region. I am excited about Edna's opportunity to more fully develop her leadership skills toward garnering additional resources and solidifying partnerships that will empower the people and communities of Appalachia to thrive and prosper."

Schack is one of 40 professionals participating in the second class of the ALI who live and/or work in a 13-state Appalachian region. Fellows work in a variety of professions in both the public and private sectors. Each fellow participates in a nine-month series of seminars beginning virtually from mid-October through July 2021. Seminars will feature regional experts, case study analysis and peer-to-peer training on topics ranging from leadership skills to grant writing and designing economic project proposals.

McAnally named a National Merit Commended Student

Sam McAnally of Elizabethtown, a senior at the Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics, has been named a Commended Student in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program. McAnally and other Commended Students placed in the top 50,000 scorers of the more than 1.5 million students who took the 2019 PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

Dr. Bob Albert receives MSU's 2020 Founders Award

Dr. Robert "Bob" Albert (84, 85), a long-time former faculty member and administrator at Morehead State University, has been selected as this year's recipient of the Founders Award for University Service. The MSU Board of Regents established the Founders Award for University Service in 1978. The award provides recognition to individuals who have given superior service to Morehead State University throughout their time as a University employee or volunteer. The presentation of the 2020 Founders Award will be made at a later date.

"I had the opportunity to work with some outstanding colleagues during my time at MSU," Albert said. "I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to hold some significant leadership roles and had it not been for such outstanding colleagues, I would not have remained in these leadership roles. It is really the team around you that makes a leader."



Nearly 300 members of campus and broader community attend diversity, equity and inclusion virtual symposium

Murray State hosted a diversity, equity and inclusion virtual symposium on Oct. 2, promoting cross-racial dialogue, education and increased awareness of issues related to race and ethnicity. Coordinated by the University's Office of Multicultural Initiatives, Student Leadership and Inclusive Excellence, the symposium was attended by nearly 300 members of the campus and broader community throughout the country.

The first Distinguished Presidential Fellow award was presented to Mrs. Eunice J. Mills (pictured), which was accepted by her son, Glenn. Mrs. Mills and her late husband, Dr. Marvin D. Mills, have been instrumental in recruiting and mentoring Murray State students beginning in the mid 1970's, supporting students of color in furthering their education and leadership development through scholarships and funding for diversity and leadership programming.

Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education President Dr. Aaron Thompson delivered a keynote address that provided several updates on continued goals and progress toward creating a more equitable Commonwealth through higher education.

Dr. Shea Porr selected as a distinguished educator



Dr. Shea Porr, Animal/Equine Science Department Head for the Hutson School of Agriculture, has been selected as the Distinguished Educator for the Non-Land Grant Agriculture and Renewable Resources Universities (NARRU). Dr. Porr was the lone recipient of the 2020 Distinguished Educator Award by NARRU and was recognized in a virtual ceremony October 7.

"It made me feel really good to see the support my colleagues and students gave me as they worked on the application for this award," said Porr. "I try my best to help my colleagues and students be the best they can be, and this experience showed me how my efforts are interpreted by them. It made me feel like I really do a good job!"

Special Murray State license plate now available



The long-awaited, newly-designed Murray State University license plate is now available in Kentucky. According to alumni relations director Carrie McGinnis, every plate sold provides support for current and future Racers. "A portion of Murray State license plate sales are returned to the University to

fund student scholarships," McGinnis said. "Last fiscal year, license plate sales raised \$17,500 in scholarship funds. It makes a significant impact."

Personalized plates in the new design are now available at drive.ky.gov or by visiting your local county clerk's office.

New Opportunity Scholarship does not require ACT or SAT test score

Murray State has introduced the new Opportunity Scholarship for entering fall 2021 freshmen students as part of its current Academic Achievement Scholarships. The Opportunity Scholarship is a \$1,000 annual award given to entering freshmen and does not require an ACT/SAT test score in order to receive. Recipients must hold a minimum GPA of 3.0. Murray State is

ACT and SAT test-optional as a GPA of 3.0 or above guarantees admission for prospective undergraduate students.

This scholarship adds to the existing Academic Achievement Scholarships offered at Murray State, which range from 100 percent tuition covered plus an additional stipend, to the newly-created Opportunity Scholarship.

Hopkinsville Regional Campus director named chair of Kentucky Association of Continuing Higher Education

Murray State University Hopkinsville Regional Campus Director Dr. Slone Cansler, '97, '00, has been named chair of the Kentucky Association of Continuing Higher Education (KACHE), a statewide organization devoted to improving access to higher education for students across the commonwealth.

For years, KACHE has sought to fulfill its mission of offering programs and information about educational opportunities in Kentucky.

Its membership includes most four-year institutions in Kentucky, along with private schools and institutions within the Kentucky Community and Technical College System.

"I'm very excited to have the opportunity to serve in KACHE, as this organization provides valuable support to higher education practitioners throughout the state of Kentucky," said Cansler, who has served as director of the Hopkinsville Regional Campus since 2010.

Students in Speech and Debate Union compete on national stage



Murray State's Speech and Debate Union recently competed in the Big Apple Debate Tournament, which included teams from ten states and was hosted virtually by Queens College and the City University of New York.

All Murray State team members finished in the top 10 of their respective events while earning third place in overall sweepstakes points for the tournament.

Among the three forms of debate — International Public Debate, Parliamentary Debate and Lincoln-Douglas

Debate — Murray State took home first place in both International Public Debate and Parliamentary Debate.

Team members won the following awards:

- Debate partners Victoria Lindsey of Hardinsburg, Kentucky and Garrett Kieser of Battletown, Kentucky - first place in Parliamentary Debate
- Debate partners Josh Sanders of Collinsville, Illinois and Kyle Heideman of Fisherville, Kentucky - eighth place in Parliamentary Debate
- Jesse Hibbs of Owensboro, Kentucky - first place in International Public Debate
- Jillian Owen of Clarksville, Tennessee - sixth place in International Public Debate
- Chase Thomason of Benton, Kentucky - second place in International Public Debate (novice)

Faculty and staff attend Leadership Women Pipeline program

Nine Murray State faculty and staff attended the national Leadership Women Pipeline program on September 2.

Pipeline is a virtual, one-day program with innovative speakers and mentors offered by Leadership Women, the largest and longest running leadership development nonprofit organization for women in the nation. With a mission to ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life, the conference allowed these Murray State women focused on the building years of their

leadership journeys to connect with a broad diversity of peers to foster ongoing relationships and a professional leadership network.

The faculty and staff were able to attend through a donation from Lana Garner Porter, B.A., 1965, M.A., 1972 and 2002 Murray State Distinguished Alumnus recipient. Porter has contributed many gifts to Murray State over the past few years for projects in Murray State University's Libraries, the Telecommunications Systems Management program and multiple campus improvement projects.

University recognized in Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education College Rankings

Murray State was recognized as part of the Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education "Best Colleges 2021" college rankings list.

The rankings list is generated from four pillars, each of which represents a key area in teaching excellence: resources, engagement, outputs and environment. Murray State ranked in the upper 30 percent among all schools nationally in student engagement, based on metrics

including interactions with faculty, collaborative learning, social engagement on campus, career impact, student willingness to recommend the University to others and the student choosing to attend Murray State if the individual has the opportunity to choose again.

Within the past several months, Murray State has received the following national accolades related to quality, value and student success:

30 CONSECUTIVE YEARS
TOP TIER UNIVERSITY
- U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

 **BEST BANG
FOR THE BUCK**
- WASHINGTON MONTHLY

 **2021 BEST COLLEGES
IN AMERICA**
- NICHE

 **2020
BEST COLLEGE**
- MONEY



GOLD RUSH

OCT. 2020

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

GO FIGURE

16,000

Students enrolled

59

Academic/Honor Clubs

26

Cultural Groups



NKU SIMPLIFIES ADMISSIONS, ADOPTS TEST-OPTIONAL APPROACH

NKU announces significant changes to its admissions and student support process, including eliminating standardized test scores, such as the ACT and SAT, for many students applying for the Fall 2021 semester.

The simplified admissions process reduces barriers to higher education for diverse learners. Freshman applicants with an unweighted 2.75 or greater high school GPA are automatically admitted to NKU without submitting standardized test scores. Applicants with an unweighted GPA lower than 2.75 will need to submit test scores as part of the admissions application.

"Multiple studies have shown that student high-school grade point averages are significantly stronger predictors of college success than standardized test scores," said NKU President Ashish Vaidya. "We must break down barriers, meet the needs of diverse learners and create greater access opportunities to an NKU education."

NKU's commitment to student success remains a priority throughout the pandemic. NKU is also waiving application fees through November 15. "We changed our admissions requirements and aligned them with institutional aid to be more equitable and enable greater student success," said Kimberly Scranage, NKU's vice president for Enrollment and Degree Management. "NKU is unique because of the way we're uplifting students through enhanced academic support."

The university continues investing in high-impact initiatives that address affordability, including an undergraduate tuition freeze for the 2020-21 academic year and making education more accessible for out-of-state learners with the EDGE program. NKU offers merit- and need-based support for first-year students, and in-state scholarships are also automatically awarded to those who meet criteria.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/y5wprjp3>

COLLEGE CORNER

NKU students pursuing health-related careers now have a new scholarship, thanks to an endowment by former Kentucky State Legislator Ken Harper. He wanted to honor the legacy of his late wife, Eileen, while helping meet the region's demand for health care professionals.

"I'm incredibly moved by the St. Elizabeth team's compassion and attentiveness to Eileen's wellbeing. When you think about it, nurses arguably have the most important answers to our health needs," said Ken Harper. "Eileen would look down and think this is exactly what she would like to do. She always was community-minded and loved the people at NKU."

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/yys2azg>



NKU STUDENTS COVERING UPCOMING ELECTION WITH LOCAL NEWS OUTLET

NKU Students are taking a deep dive into regional and state races in the 2020 General Election. The university's independent student-run news organization, The Northerner, partnered with local news outlet Northern Kentucky Tribune to cover contested city council races in Boone, Kenton and Campbell counties. The Tribune staff is covering state and congressional candidates.

"Local journalism is vital, and I'm thrilled I get to contribute to informing Northern Kentuckians of the issues that matter to them," said Natalie Hamren, Northerner Editor-in-Chief and NKU student. "This upcoming election, it's essential that everyone votes, so I'm hoping our collaboration helps encourage that."

The online election guide featuring local government elections has been published on Northern Kentucky Tribune's website. In addition to the Tribune project, The Northerner staff have produced a special print edition of focusing on the NKU community's involvement in the election and resources for student voters. Michele Day, co-director of NKU's journalism program and student media advisor, sees the joint project as a valuable education experience. "The students are experimenting with different approaches and different ways of thinking to make sure they produce the most relevant and useful information for these new readers in a different kind of publication. Every decision and choice they make will lead to rich learning possibilities." **LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/y34a6bu8>



THE SCOREBOARD

Men's soccer player Wes Collins has been recognized with the Nike Horizon League Student-Athlete Spotlight, presented by the league office to one male and one female student-athlete each week.

Collins has been a crucial member of NKU's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) in these unprecedented times. With 13 international student-athletes on the men's soccer roster, he has selflessly assisted his international teammates as they navigate the COVID-19 pandemic by serving as their voice and as a bearer of information.

BRIEFS

NEW BOARD OF REGENTS

Gov. Andy Beshear has appointed Ken Perry to NKU's Board of Regents for a six-year term. During its Sept. 9 meeting, the 11-member Board unanimously elected André R. Ward as Chairman. Ward will serve a one-year term and assumes the position from Lee Scheben, who will return to serving as a Regent on the university's governing body. The Board also welcomed new officers Normand G. Desmarais as Vice Chairman, and Gregory Shumate as Secretary.

"I'm deeply grateful for the Board's commitment to advancing student success with their continued support and advocating for a more student-ready and regionally engaged university," said President Ashish Vaidya.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/y46dmtbr>

CARMEN HICKERSON

NKU names Carmen Hickerson as its assistant vice president for Economic Engagement and Government Relations. She replaces Adam Caswell, who left the university in May.

With over 25 years of executive-level leadership, Hickerson brings extensive experience in community engagement, advocacy and building national strategic partnerships. She has been responsible for cultivating the vision and advancement of corporate events, brand experiences and sponsorships. Prior to her role with Metro United Way, she held leadership roles at the American Chamber of Commerce Executives, Greater Louisville Inc. and Fifth Third Bank.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/y6sbjlz9>

FACULTY FOCUS

Dr. Shauna Reilly's research finds race trumps partisanship and economics in voting barriers. Her recent publication examines the voting restrictions that have been implemented across the United States in the post-2008 recession era. Navigating the literature and conventional wisdom, she breaks down and explores the role of fiscal, partisan and racial influences on voting rights laws in a post-recession period.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/y22ejkb4>

NKU CREATES THE COLLABORATIVE FOR ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT

NKU and the City of Covington recently unveiled the one-stop innovation hub for businesses and entrepreneurs to accelerate economic growth in the region.

NKU is utilizing Covington's Innovation Alley space to create a "front door" and one-stop for entrepreneurial engagement and outreach, counseling and mentorship, and programming and education. The Collaborative leverages regional agencies and programs as well as NKU's expertise in data analytics, health, logistics and entrepreneurial innovation to provide the tools that entrepreneurs need to thrive. Given the financial impacts of the pandemic, the Collaborative will play an essential role in helping the local economy move from recovery into growth.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/y4sara8h>

HONORS COLLEGE LAUNCHES VARSITY ESPORTS

Starting this fall, five students are competing on NKU's first varsity esports program. The inaugural varsity team is competing in Rocket League, an arcade-style game blending soccer and vehicular mayhem. NKU sits undefeated at 8-0.

While varsity competition might be new to NKU, electronic gaming at the university is not. The student led NKU Esports Club has been around since 2016 and continues to grow. This year the club swelled to nearly 600 active members.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/y57b693v>

ALUMNI NEWS

A PICTURE IS WORTH 5.5 BILLION WORDS

Jeff McCurry ('96) might not be a household name, but many people are familiar with his work. In fact, 5.5 billion people shared his photo in 2016 after the death of Harambe, the well-known Cincinnati Zoo gorilla.

But McCurry didn't always plan to turn his photography hobby into a career. Before he began his academic journey at Northern Kentucky University, the then 24-year-old was struck by a drunk driver and was left permanently disabled. Things changed for McCurry when he saw an ad in The Northerner, NKU's student-run newspaper, looking for a photographer to cover men's and women's basketball games.

McCurry, who received his first camera when he was 17 years old, always considered photography a hobby. But he applied for the job anyway, and his spur-of-the-moment decision paid off.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/y3kn4nt2>





THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ISSUE 109 | OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2020

Dear Friends,

This fall semester has been like no other. Campus looks and feels different as we work to keep the university as safe and healthy as possible during the pandemic. Our decision to adopt a hybrid learning model for the fall semester significantly decreased the number of Cardinals on campus. Thanks to the hard work of our Academic Scenario Planning Committee and the innovative efforts of our admissions and enrollment teams over the summer, however, we had over 300 more students than we anticipated enroll with us this academic year. Those who are still studying, working and living on campus are doing a great job wearing their masks, practicing physical distancing and getting tested for COVID-19.

Although I miss the vibrancy we typically have on campus this time of year, I have been so impressed with the ways I've seen our Cardinal Family adapt and lean into our Community of Care principle. Hundreds of virtual events and online experiences have been conducted by students, faculty and staff to help Cardinals stay connected. The School of Public Health and Information Sciences and the Health Promotion team are using their expertise to help normalize healthy behaviors and mindsets through social media campaigns and reminders on digital monitors across campus. The School of Music is sharing its talents by performing weekly mini concerts in the Belknap Academic Building courtyard to lift campus spirits. These are just a few of the many ways Cardinals have stepped up.

For many of us, this is the hardest year we've ever had to endure. Still, our university continues to lead in the face of the pandemic and the national anti-racism movement. Our Co-Immunity Project is providing critical information for understanding COVID-19 infection rates in Jefferson County. We have adjusted our goal to become a premier *anti-racist* metropolitan research university and we have numerous committees and groups engaged in making recommendations on the concrete ways we can reach this.

I am proud that our university serves a more racially and economically diverse student population than most research universities in the country, and we continue strengthening our connection with the community, commonwealth and beyond during such difficult times. In this report, you'll see further evidence of how we're making an impact and being recognized for our achievements. UofL is committed to being a great place to learn, work and invest. Thank you for helping us make this such a great place and thank you for supporting our work to build a brighter, safer and more equitable future for all.

Go Cards!

Neeli Bendapudi
President, University of Louisville

PUBLIC HEALTH STUDENTS HELP KEEP CAMPUS SAFE AS CONTACT TRACING SPECIALISTS

They've spent hours training, including the completion of Johns Hopkins University's online contact tracing course. Now, nearly a dozen undergraduate and graduate students from the School of Public Health and Information Sciences are playing an integral role in keeping the University of Louisville safe from the spread of COVID-19.

Maymie Owens will graduate in December with a bachelor of science in public health. She's working 28 to 30 hours each week providing information to close contacts of COVID-19 positive status students, faculty and staff. "It gives me the chance to be part of something that can improve the health

of the community, as well as gain background knowledge for my future career," Owens said. She was one of 40 UofL public health, biomedical science and medical students, along with medical residents who volunteered the past few months with the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health & Wellness' (LMPHW) contact tracing team.

The student workers have greatly expanded the bandwidth of Campus Health Services, says Cheri Hildreth, director of the Department of Environmental Health and Safety. Campus Health makes initial calls to members of the UofL community who test positive for COVID-19, and then Hildreth's team makes phone calls to positive cases and close contacts, providing education and information on up-to-date isolation safety measures and guidelines.



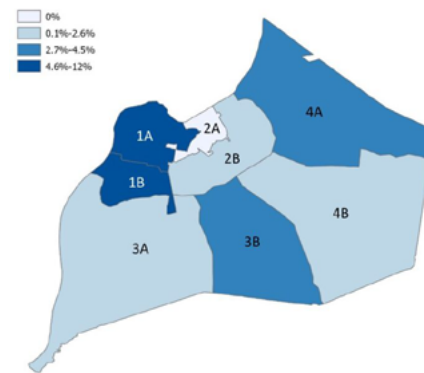
CO-IMMUNITY PROJECT CONTINUES PROVIDING CRITICAL INFORMATION ON COVID-19 INFECTIONS IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

The Co-Immunity Project at the University of Louisville's Christina Lee Brown Envirome Institute is a unique series of studies to estimate the true prevalence of SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing COVID-19, in Jefferson County by testing a representative sample of individuals from different areas in the city in proportion to the age and race of the population of the area every eight weeks. The approach adopted by study investigators provides a more reliable estimate of the spread of coronavirus infection in different parts of the city than simply testing whomever comes forward to be tested.

In the most recent effort to obtain a uniform sample of city residents, investigators at the UofL Brown Envirome Institute mailed 32,000 letters to households across the city. They followed up the invitation letters with postcard reminders, some delivered to the doors of invitees in person.

Between Sept. 9 and Sept. 19, the team tested 2,208 individuals at seven different community drive-up locations for both the presence of the virus in participants' nasal swabs and for antibodies against the virus in their blood, indicating a previous infection. Samples were analyzed at UofL's Regional Biocontainment Laboratory by the Center for Predictive Medicine for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Disease.

The study found that at least 0.2% participants had an active infection at the time of the study and nearly 4.4% (5.1 to 3.2%) people had detectable levels of antibodies in their blood, indicating they



have been exposed to the virus earlier in the year.

"Comparing our results with the data provided by the city, it seems that more than half the number of infected individuals have not been tested," said Rachel Keith, assistant professor of environmental medicine at UofL, who conducted the study. "Reasons for this discrepancy may be that many infected individuals may not have had any symptoms or may not have been tested due to access issues. I believe we have to do a better job in overcoming hesitations in testing, in encouraging testing and in testing individuals across different neighborhoods, even if they do not have any symptoms."

The researchers are planning to repeat randomized coronavirus testing in Jefferson County in November.

School of Medicine establishes endowed fund to combat racial inequality

UofL medical faculty leaders have pledged \$50,000 toward a \$1 million goal to address long-standing racial inequities in medical education.

The University of Louisville School of Medicine's Endowed Excellence Fund for Diversity has been established by several department chairs to address systemic racism. This is in response to the university's challenge asking for ideas and support in making UofL the nation's premier anti-racist metropolitan research university.

"I am proud and deeply grateful for the leadership of these faculty who are using their philanthropic and other financial resources to create a fund that will promote diversity at the School of Medicine both now and for the future," said Toni Ganzel, dean of the School of Medicine.

The endowment is expected to be used for scholarships, resident stipends, faculty recruitment and retention packages and other unforeseen opportunities. A dean-appointed selection committee composed of diverse members of the School of Medicine faculty, staff and students will help guide spending decisions.

The endowment was established by:

- Sean Francis, chair of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Women's Health
- Ronald Gregg, chair of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics
- William Guido, chair of Anatomical Sciences & Neurobiology
- Irving Joshua, chair of Physiology
- Maureen McCall, professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences
- Craig S. Roberts, chair of Orthopaedic Surgery



UofL RECOGNIZED AS TOP COLLEGE FOR DIVERSITY

INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine has recognized the University of Louisville as a 2020 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award designee and a 2020 Diversity Champion. This is the seventh year in a row UofL has received the HEED Award.

INSIGHT Into Diversity also recognizes selected institutions — those that rank in the top tier of HEED Award recipients — as Diversity Champions. These institutions exemplify an unyielding commitment to diversity and inclusion throughout their campus communities, across academic programs and at the highest administrative levels. Known for visionary leadership, Diversity Champions are institutions that serve as role models and set the standard for thousands of other U.S. college campuses striving for inclusive excellence, according to the publication.

"UofL is a visionary leader among institutions of higher education striving for inclusive excellence throughout their campus," said Lenore Pearlstein, publisher of *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine. "As a Diversity Champion school, UofL exceeds everyday expectations by developing successful strategies and programs that serve as models of excellence for other higher education institutions."

"We are honored by this recognition of our commitment to diversity and inclusion, but we need to do more and go beyond this work to move toward an anti-racism agenda," said V. Faye Jones, senior associate vice president for

Diversity and Equity. "UofL has pledged to take a stand against systemic racism. We will use the momentum of this time to actively engage in the ongoing hard work that is necessary to make transformational change in all areas of the institution."



WKU increases access with ‘Hilltopper Guarantee,’ other scholarship changes

Beginning fall 2021, WKU will be tuition free to any freshman from Kentucky who receives Pell Grant assistance and has at least a 3.0 cumulative unweighted high school grade-point average.

“**Hilltopper Guarantee:** WKU’s Commitment to the Commonwealth” is a major part of the University’s effort to increase access to a WKU education through affordability.

“The WKU experience is transformative, and our mission calls us to provide access to all students, including those who thought a college degree was out of reach,” WKU President Timothy C. Caboni said.

“The bold changes we made to scholarships last year significantly expanded the aid available. This pledge closes the gap for the most financially challenged students and will allow those students access to the life-changing WKU Experience.”

The amount of the award will be determined by in-state tuition less aid, such as Pell Grants, KEES and other institutional and gift aid. It does not include student loans, which may be used for housing, books and other expenses.

Last year’s changes in the scholarship program played a significant role in recruiting the largest freshman class in decades with the highest average GPA in WKU history, President Caboni said. Freshmen receiving scholarship assistance jumped from 39 percent to 84 percent this fall.

“Across Kentucky, many graduating high school seniors are forced to forego their dreams of a college degree simply because of their family’s financial circumstances,” he said. “Even when combining Pell Grants, SEOG, KEES and other institutional and gift aid with maximum student loans available, an affordability gap still precludes them from continuing their education.”

President Caboni said the Hilltopper Guarantee is a significant step forward for access to higher education in Kentucky. “We are taking a leading role in removing the financial barrier which allows more youth from all across Kentucky to become part of a better-educated workforce. This is key to our state’s economic prosperity.”

Additional scholarship program changes significantly increase access to WKU for students from outside of Kentucky.

The **WKU Family Scholarship** provides in-state tuition to first-time, full-time freshmen whose parents or grandparents are WKU graduates no matter where they live. In the past, those students were eligible for the Tuition Incentive Program and the new program will further reduce the cost of tuition by about 22 percent.

The **WKU Border State Scholarship** provides in-state tuition to first-time, full-time freshmen from the seven states that border Kentucky: Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. WKU currently has almost 3,000 students from those states, an increase of 22 percent over the past seven years.

WKU has also retooled its **Tuition Incentive Program**, which will reduce out-of-state tuition by nearly half for non-resident first-time, full-time freshmen with a 3.0 high school GPA or who qualify for any other scholarship award.

In all cases students can stack scholarships to these awards.



WKU President Timothy C. Caboni announcing the Hilltopper Guarantee.

Record number of WKU students apply for nationally competitive scholarships

WKU students in a variety of majors and degree programs earned recognition in the nation's most prestigious scholarship competitions during 2019-20. A record 168 WKU students and recent graduates submitted 215 applications for nationally competitive scholarships. They earned recognition 59 times, totaling more than \$783,000 in funding for graduate school, language study, public service, and study abroad. Of successful applications, 61 percent were submitted by Pell Grant recipients, 29 percent were submitted by first-generation college students, and 20 percent were submitted by underrepresented minority students. See

<https://www.wku.edu/news/articles/index.php?view=article&articleid=9159>



WKU Folk Studies MA alumnus wins prestigious Chicago Folklore Prize

WKU Folk Studies MA alumnus Andrea Kitta ('03) is a 2020 recipient of the American Folklore Society's Chicago Folklore Prize for her 2019 book *The Kiss of Death: Contamination, Contagion, and Folklore* (Utah State University Press). The prestigious Chicago Folklore Prize has been awarded by the [American Folklore Society](#) since 1904 "for the best book-length work of folklore scholarship for the year."

In *The Kiss of Death*, Kitta examines vernacular understandings of contagion and contamination as expressed through legend and rumor—a topic that could not be more timely, in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. For that reason, the publishers have made the digital version [available free of charge](#). See

<https://www.wku.edu/news/articles/index.php?view=article&articleid=9197>

WKU Student Publications earns 3 Pacemakers

WKU Student Publications earned three national [Pacemaker awards](#) from the Associated Collegiate Press during the organization's 2020 competition.

The College Heights Herald received an Online Pacemaker for its website, [WKUHerald.com](#). The [Talisman](#) received a Magazine Pacemaker, its first since changing format from a yearbook to a magazine in 2016. Cherry Creative received an Innovation Pacemaker, an award presented for the first time this year, for its [WKU Graduate Gallery](#) published in the spring.

The Pacemaker is considered the highest honor for a student-run media operation. WKU Student Publications has now collected 40 Pacemaker awards – 21 for Talisman, 18 for the College Heights Herald and one for Cherry Creative. See <https://www.wku.edu/news/articles/index.php?view=article&articleid=9166>



WKU featured in 2021 edition of Guide to Green Colleges

For the 11th consecutive year, WKU has been recognized as one of the nation's most environmentally responsible colleges, according to [The Princeton Review®](#).

WKU is among 416 schools profiled in [The Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges: 2021 Edition](#). The Princeton Review surveyed administrators at 695 colleges in 2019-20 about their institutions' commitments to the environment and sustainability.

In 2020, WKU maintained a STARS Silver rating in recognition of its sustainability achievements from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education; Ogden College Hall became the first educational laboratory in the U.S. to achieve WELL v2 Gold Certification by the International WELL Building Institute; and WKU's Fresh Food Company became the first restaurant in Bowling Green, and the first on a Kentucky college campus, to earn Green Restaurant Certification from the Green Restaurant Association. See

<https://www.wku.edu/news/articles/index.php?view=article&articleid=9156>