

**Council on Postsecondary Education
September 16, 2007**

College Access Grant

The Council on Postsecondary Education, in partnership with the Prichard Committee, has successfully competed for a \$500,000 grant from the Lumina Foundation which, when combined with matching in-state funds, will provide over \$1 million to promote college-going in Kentucky. GEAR UP Kentucky is a major in-state partner for the grant. A significant part of the grant will support the new Kentucky College Access Network (KentuckyCAN). KentuckyCAN was launched on August 9, 2007, at a statewide inaugural event held at the Council offices. KentuckyCAN members include local business, civic, and faith-based organizations, as well as leaders of other state and federally funded programs focused on helping more students prepare for and attend college. The grant's primary focus is on increasing college-going by underrepresented groups.

The grant support will allow KentuckyCAN to expand its membership, coordinate and support college access efforts across the state, seek other grants and financial resources, and provide grassroots support for the Council's broader College Access Initiative: *Go Higher Kentucky*. The network's goal is to promote a college-going culture in Kentucky with the help of state leaders and leaders in communities across the state.

A second component of the grant focuses on engaging business leadership in the Council's college access initiatives. The grant will support the creation of a business advisory council and strategic initiatives that involve employers in promoting and supporting college-going among their employees and the children of their employees.