

President's Report to the Council on Postsecondary Education

Robert L. King – February 11, 2010



Kentucky Space Enterprise, NASA Launch - Congratulations are in order for the Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation and Kentucky Space Enterprise. Developed in partnership with Kentucky's postsecondary engineering students and faculty, Kentucky Space will have satellites launched by NASA, hitching a ride to space with the Taurus rocket's primary payload Glory spacecraft in November 2010. The Glory climate mission, developed by NASA's Science Mission Directorate, will extend the nearly 30-year record of precise measurements of the sun's energy output. Kentucky's vehicle is called KySat-1 and includes a camera to support scientific outreach intended for students K-12. Included is a radio that will be used to test high-bandwidth communications. The combined resources and capacity of the University of Kentucky, Morehead State University, University of Louisville, Western Kentucky University, Murray State University, and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System are managed by KSTC through a Grant Consortium with CPE and Belcan. To quote Governor Beshear in a recent press release, "Kentucky Space is a an example of exactly the kind of innovative ideas and ventures that Kentucky is capable of and that will form the basis for the creation of dynamic new companies and high paying jobs across the state."

Data Quality Report – This past year, Council staff completed its first round of data quality checks at our public colleges and universities. This data quality initiative began with the Council's passage of a Data Quality Policy in 2007, and has expanded data quality policies and practices on campus. During the data quality checks, staff from our Information unit visited Morehead State University, Western Kentucky University, the KCTCS System office, and Bluegrass and Owensboro Community and Technical Colleges to meet with campus data staff and compare students' on-campus records with the data reported to Council staff. I am happy to report that all institutions visited had clean, accurate, and complete data, along with systems and policies in place to ensure that high-quality, reliable data is sent to the state.

Why is this important? All the numbers and statistics we produce for accountability and policy research, such as enrollment numbers and graduation rates, are based on this data. Policymakers and education leaders in Frankfort rely heavily on this information our campuses provide, and, because of years of good work on campus and here at CPE, our research and information has an excellent reputation in Frankfort and nationally. For these reasons, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff at our colleges and universities who work so hard to provide us with accurate, reliable data.

Standards-in-Action (SIA) Project - The Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) recently selected Kentucky, along with Vermont, Nevada, Georgia, Arkansas, Kansas, and Montana, to participate in the National Diffusion of the Standards-in-Action Innovations. This two-year project beginning January 2010 will enable participating states to deliver professional development to help adult education instructors implement standards-based instruction in their local programs. The SIA innovations, which OVAE developed and pilot-tested from 2006-2009, address four priority areas of standards-based reform:

1. Building adult education instructors' understanding of the standards taught.
2. Translating the standards into curriculum.
3. Aligning adult education student assignments to standards.
4. Assessing the extent to which adult education instructors are teaching to the standards and using effective instruction.

State P-16 Council - In discussion with local P-16 Council representatives during the state P-16 Council meeting held in December 2009, Chair Billy Harper entertained a recommendation to merge the state P-16 Council with the State Association of P-16 Councils. The state-level P-16 work has coalesced around the current SB 1 legislation to improve the rigor of K-12 curricula, advance professional development, and improve college readiness, adult and developmental education. The lead agencies coordinating this work (CPE, KDE, and EPSB) will continue to provide assistance to local P-16 Councils through staff support as needed, and to be accessible to provide state-level opportunities and updates when available. A motion was made and passed to merge these entities.

Congratulations:

To Murray State University for its Center for Telecommunications Systems Management program, which earned the Best Graduate Program Award for its Program of Distinction for the third consecutive year by the International Education and Research Association.

To Kentucky State University for earning reaffirmation of SACS accreditation. The rigorous review process occurs every 10 years, and demands a great deal of time and commitment of the entire campus community.

To Centre College, Transylvania University, and Berea College for making Forbes.com's list of the "20 Best Colleges in the South." The rankings, which came out in January, lists Centre number 1, Berea number 19, and Transylvania number 20.

To the University of Kentucky's Center for Applied Energy Research, which has been awarded an \$11.8 million grant from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to expand laboratory facilities and intensify its groundbreaking energy research efforts. This grant is being matched with \$3 million from the Commonwealth of Kentucky and \$1 million from UK to complete the \$15.8 million project.

To the University of Louisville for securing \$2.95 million in federal funding in the fiscal year 2010 budget for three research initiatives: UofL's Meteorology and Atmospheric Science Program; the Comprehensive Trauma/Organ Injury Program; and the Radio Frequency Identification Technologies Program.

For other Kentucky college and universities news and updates, please review all the campus reports, which are located in the back of your agenda materials.