

**CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICERS'
TASK FORCE ON TEACHER QUALITY**

**P-16 Council
Agenda Item D-1
September 21, 2001**

Discussion

In spring 2001, the Kentucky chief academic officers of the public and independent institutions endorsed a statewide "Teacher Education Agenda" (see attached), committing their institutions to addressing teachers' preparation and professional development needs. The agenda was developed in cooperation with the Education Professional Standards Board and the Kentucky Department of Education. It shaped proposals from the comprehensive institutions for using nearly \$4 million dollars of the Council on Postsecondary Education's Action Agenda Trust Fund to improve teacher education. These funds have been allocated.

The CAO's have since convened meetings to develop plans for implementing the objectives of the teacher education agenda. These recommendations, including detailed descriptions of specific outcomes and methods for measuring success, have been distributed statewide.

The Council on Postsecondary Education is sponsoring a statewide conference October 18-19 at Centre College, where representatives from the public and independent postsecondary institutions, the EPSB, and the KDE will form teams to complete the design of programs to meet agenda objectives and an implementation timeline.

Dr. Barbara Burch, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Western Kentucky University, and Dr. Michael Marsden, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Eastern Kentucky University, will present a progress report to the P-16 Council.

TEACHER EDUCATION AGENDA

One of the highest priorities for Kentucky is ensuring high quality teaching in Kentucky schools. The quality of teaching is directly related to the quality of student learning. Additional attention and support must be given to teacher preparation programs throughout the state. The Education Professional Standards Board has developed rigorous performance-based standards for teacher preparation programs. The Teacher Education Agenda is a set of broad objectives to which all of the chief academic officers of Kentucky's public and independent postsecondary institutions are committed, in order to ensure that Kentucky's teacher education programs meet and exceed the EPSB standards.

Working collaboratively with the EPSB and the Kentucky Department of Education, the chief academic officers will establish implementation teams including deans and chairs of arts and sciences and education, faculty, and P-12 representatives to develop specific programs that will achieve the goals outlined in this Agenda. Two meetings of these groups already have occurred. Plans to improve teacher education are being shared. A coordinated statewide approach to accomplishing these objectives is being developed using Action Agenda Trust Funds from the council, institutional resources, and support provided by the KDE.

The Goals of the Teacher Education Agenda

- Encourage talented people to enter the teaching profession through both alternative and traditional routes.
- Improve existing and prospective teachers' professional knowledge in content and pedagogy.
- Promote professional development in pre-service and in-service programs that enhance teachers' use of academic skills in the workplace.
- Ensure involvement of the entire university community in teacher education.
- Improve performance and learning results for P-12 students.
- Support collaboration between the P-12 and postsecondary education communities.

Objectives

Objective 1

More teachers will be recruited and retained in the teaching profession.

We will work inside our universities and colleges and with state government to develop incentive programs to encourage our best students to enter the teaching profession, especially in teacher shortage areas. Programs could include tuition incentives, loan forgiveness, and special recruitment and recognition programs for teacher education students. We also will work with the EPSB to develop alternative certification routes that attract and prepare good teachers from all walks of life.

We will support efforts to raise teacher salaries and make them more merit and market driven. Teachers in shortage areas, those willing to teach in difficult situations, and those who demonstrate excellence should be rewarded.

We pledge to give the highest priority within our institutions to teacher education programs in teacher shortage areas. We will enhance programs that support our teacher education graduates in the classroom, especially during the first five years of their teaching career.

Our success in meeting this objective will be measured by a significant reduction in teacher shortages, in the number of emergency certified teachers in the classroom, and in the number of teachers leaving the profession during the first five years of service.

Objective 2

P-12 teachers will have extensive content knowledge of the subjects they teach as well as knowledge of pedagogy and technology.

We will provide high quality teacher education programs that address the needs of the P-12 system. We will work closely with the EPSB in its development of a state report card for teacher education programs to accomplish this task. Our faculty and program development efforts will focus on creating partnerships between arts and sciences and education faculty to ensure the content knowledge of teachers. We also will strengthen partnerships with schools to promote new teachers' success in making the transition to the classroom. Professional development programs for current teachers will be aligned with P-12 standards to help teachers prepare students for postsecondary success.

Objective 3

P-16 educational institutions' curriculum and standards will be aligned.

We know that for teachers and their students to succeed we must have clear and consistent learning goals across all educational levels. We will take leadership in developing local P-16 councils in Kentucky to help align exit and entrance standards. Our first goal will be to ensure that high school standards are directly linked to college admissions standards. Special attention will be given to curriculum reforms that support transition from two to four-year postsecondary institutions for students pursuing teaching careers.

Objective 4

Teachers will be better prepared to help all students meet P-12 academic standards.

We are committed to developing teachers who can effectively teach students from all backgrounds and with different learning styles. Special emphasis will be given to programs that enable teachers to develop student reading skills and meet the needs of minority students. We will measure our success by improvement in P-12 student learning, including bringing all students to proficiency levels in reading by third grade and eliminating the achievement gap between poor and minority students and their peers.

Council of Chief Academic Officers' Teacher Education Agenda Group Composition

To implement, involve the following groups:

- Teacher Education Leadership Team: chief academic officers of the eight public universities, KCTCS, two chief academic officers from the independent colleges, the vice president for academic affairs of the Council on Postsecondary Education, and the chief academic officer of the Kentucky Virtual University.
- Teacher Education Steering Committee: a subcommittee of the Leadership Team to ensure the continued presence of teacher education initiatives on the agenda of the public and independent chief academic officers (three public and one independent representatives).
- Implementation Teams: groups of arts and sciences and education deans and chairs and college and P-12 faculty who will develop specific programs to address agenda objectives.
- Teacher Education Agenda Statewide Group: representatives from the Education Professional Standards Board, Kentucky Department of Education, and the Teacher Education Leadership and Implementation Teams who will ensure a coordinated statewide teacher education effort.

Implementation Plan

1. Identification of priority issues to be addressed.
2. Appointment of implementation teams to develop specific plans of action and accountability measures for each of the objectives.
3. Creation of local and regional P-16 councils consistent with state P-16 council guidelines.
4. Identification and coordination of resources to sustain the teacher education agenda, such as funds from:
 - Action Agenda Trust Funds
 - Faculty development programs
 - Programs of Distinction and Research Challenge Trust Funds
 - Local P-16 council initiatives
 - KDE teacher quality programs
 - EPSB programs
 - Institutional funds through reallocations
 - Other government agencies and foundations

Conclusion

These are broad objectives. Our ultimate success will be determined by the outcomes of the specific programs that we develop. However, we believe that the public commitment of the chief academic officers to teacher education as a priority at each of our institutions and to the Agenda outlined here is a significant first step. We look forward to working with the Kentucky Board of Education, the Council on Postsecondary Education, the EPSB, and other interested groups to further develop and implement this Agenda.