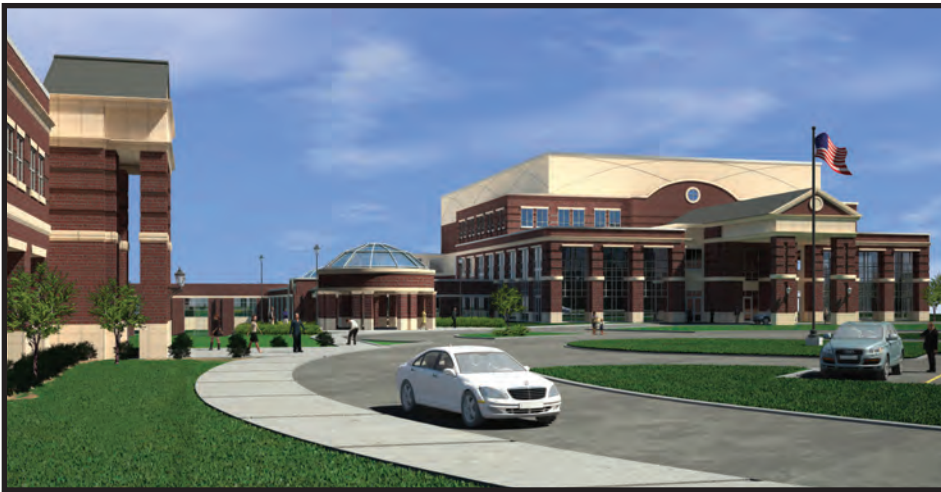




Report

Eastern Kentucky University News for the Council on Postsecondary Education

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Construction Continues on Center for Performing Arts

Excitement is building as construction continues on the Center for the Performing Arts at EKU, and a new Executive Director takes the leadership reins.

When complete in mid-2011, EKU's Center will be the finest such facility in the state, according to President Doug Whitlock, "and one of the finest in the multi-state region." The 93,000-square-foot Center will house a 2,000-seat "Broadway-capable, Broadway-quality" theater with a "fly system" and a 60-foot by 24-foot stage proscenium, as well as a configurable "black-box" theater with seating up to 250. It is located adjacent to the University's new Business & Technology Center, on the south side of the Eastern By-Pass between Lancaster Road and Kit Carson Drive.



Eckstrand

Katherine Eckstrand brings 23 years experience in arts administration and promotion to her new role as Executive Director. She had served since 2005 as Director of Community Development for the Ohio Arts Council.

The funding strategy for the Center was unique because it joined state, county and University resources. A 13-member Board of Directors consisting of representatives of EKU, the City of Richmond, City of Berea and Madison County, was established to oversee design and construction.

Aviation Program Receives Achievement Award from Hall of Fame

EKU's aviation program has received the 2009 Aviation Achievement Award, presented by the Kentucky Aviation Hall of Fame.

The Award recognizes institutions and organizations for their contribution to aviation. Previous honorees include airlines, general aviation associations, and training programs.

The program's professional flight option is the only FAA-approved university flight program in Kentucky. Students who earn their degree in professional flight attain FAA certification as a private pilot, commercial pilot, an instrument rating, certified flight instructor-instrument and multi-engine ratings. Before graduation, they will log 250-300 flight hours via the fixed-base operator at Madison Airport.

EKU Ahead of National Peers in Most Student Engagement Categories

Forty-eight percent of EKU seniors said they would "definitely" make the same choice if they could start their college education anew, a figure well above the national average of 39 percent among large, public master's degree-granting institutions participating in the National Survey of Student Engagement.



An additional 39 percent of EKU seniors said they would "probably" attend Eastern again if they could start again. The total of 87 percent of EKU seniors responding affirmatively is up from 84 percent in 2007.

The NSSE assesses the extent to which college students engage in educational practices associated with high levels of learning and development. "It measures what students do – the time and energy devoted to educationally purposeful activities – as well as the practices institutions employ to induce students to do the right things," said Stacey Street, assistant director of the Office of Institutional Effectiveness at EKU.

The EKU students were asked to measure the University in five areas: level of academic challenge, active and collaborative learning, enriching educational experiences, student-faculty interaction and supportive campus environment.

Seniors ranked EKU ahead of other four-year public universities in Kentucky and other large, public master's degree granting institutions nationally in four of the five categories – academic challenge, active and collaborative learning, student-faculty interaction and supportive campus environment – and ahead of its state benchmarks in enriching educational experiences. First-year students placed EKU ahead of its state and national benchmarks in three categories – level of academic challenge, student-faculty interaction and supportive campus environment and ahead of its state benchmarks in active and collaborative learning.

Horn's Work Featured in Chronicle of Higher Education

The buzz continues to grow over EKU researcher/apiculturist Tammy Horn's ongoing efforts to promote beekeeping on mine reclamation sites in Appalachian Kentucky.

Horn's work with EKU's Eastern Kentucky Environmental Research Institute is profiled in the November 15 issue of The Chronicle of Higher Education. The article, by Karin Fischer, is titled "In Appalachia, A Researcher Makes Honey from Coal." It can be viewed at chronicle.com/article/In-Appalachia-a-Researcher/49141.

The 1,560-word piece talks about Horn's vision to create a "honey corridor" in eastern Kentucky and adjacent West Virginia, starting with more than 33,000 surface-mined acres. Her project, Coal Country Beeworks, already has 53 hives on five sites.

Horn is the author of "Bees in America: How the Honey Bee Shaped a Nation" and her next book, "Piping Up: A History of Women and Bees," will be a global history of women and beekeeping.



EKU Now! Program Helps High School Juniors, Seniors Get Early Start

Qualified high school juniors and seniors throughout EKU's service region can take at least one free EKU course each fall or spring semester in the University's EKU Now! program.

The EKU Now! program combines features of the University's previous Dual Credit and Jump Start programs to encourage high school students to consider higher education and introduce them to an authentic university classroom experience.

During the Fall 2009 semester, 258 students (188 seniors and 70 juniors) were enrolled in EKU Now! Many took classes at one of the University's regional campuses – Danville, Corbin or Manchester – or in Somerset.

"In order to encourage student success, it was decided to increase the EKU requirements for entrance into the program," said Chris Bogie, director of the program. ACT minimum requirements are now: English, 18; Math, 19; Reading, 20; and Composite, 21. The minimum high school GPA requirement is 3.0.

EKU and the World Equestrian Games

University Partners with International Equestrian Festival

EKU has formed a new partnership with Horse Capital Productions to launch a new, integrated education program through the company's International Equestrian Festival, to be held during the 2010 World Equestrian Games.



Beginning in January 2010, five University courses in the Department of Communication will utilize the International Equestrian Festival's expansive events planning and implementation process to create an interactive Marketing and Public Relations curriculum, officials announced.

"We have always taken great pride at EKU in providing our students opportunities to apply their classroom learning and enhance their skills in hands-on settings," EKU President Doug Whitlock said. "This partnership with Horse Capital Productions will im-

measurably enrich the education of participating students and help prepare them for successful careers in their chosen fields. At the same time, their contributions will be integral to the success of this exciting international event."

EKU's new partnership with Horse Capital Productions was officially announced in a news briefing in December. On hand to answer questions were President Whitlock, center, and, from left, Dr. Renee Everett, chair of the Department of Communication; HCP Co-Founders Anne Buchanan and Kimberly Brown; and Dr. Kathy Keltner, assistant professor of Communication.



Justice & Safety Helps Prepare for World Equestrian Games

EKU's College of Justice & Safety is helping to prepare law enforcement agencies for the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, to be held in Lexington later this year.

CRJ faculty recently delivered a curriculum on cultural competency for police and security officials at an all-day seminar/workshop at the Lexington Police Department Training Academy.

"Any major international event poses a variety of challenges for local law enforcement," said Dr. Carole Garrison, professor in EKU's Department of Criminal Justice and Police Studies. "Cross-cultural sensitivity and enhanced communication with foreign visitors can reduce greatly problems arising from misunderstanding or stereotyping. The eyes of the world will be on Lexington and Kentucky, and friendships and maybe even business opportunities will be made or lost because of how our police handle themselves."