

**Council on Postsecondary Education
September 10, 2009**

**Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities
Annual Report to CPE**

Pursuant to KRS 164.020 (13)*, the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities is charged with presenting an annual report to the Council on Postsecondary Education. This reporting requirement was added in 2002 to ensure that the contributions of the state's nonprofit, SACS accredited colleges and universities are recognized and considered by the Council in carrying out its statutory responsibilities to most effectively and efficiently meet the state's postsecondary needs. At the September 10 meeting, John Roush, chair of the AIKCU board of directors, and AIKCU staff will deliver the 2009 annual report and make brief comments. A group of private college and university presidents also will attend the meeting to respond to specific questions.

The positive relationship between Kentucky's private colleges and universities and the Council has evolved over the years. The Commonwealth's earliest providers of a college education were private colleges. These private colleges and universities persevered in some of the most underserved areas of the Commonwealth, meeting educational needs in many remote areas as well as in the state's larger cities. As the public collegiate sector was established and grew, private and public institutions coexisted with little structured interaction at the campus or state levels. This began to change in the second half of the twentieth century with the establishment of the Kentucky Tuition Grant program in the early 1970's and continued with the evolution of the modern Council. In the 1980's the Council on Public Higher Education was restructured and in the process became the Council on Higher Education, tacitly recognizing that private college and university assets should be valued and could be utilized by the state's higher education planning and coordinating body. Incremental, seemingly innocuous relationships such as the voluntary agreement by private colleges to participate in the state data collection process developed during this time and laid the foundation for increased collaboration. Private college students also were recognized and included in the College Access Program, a financial aid program designed to assist the state's neediest students attend college.

The passage of the 1997 postsecondary education reforms followed by the passage of the KEES program in 1998 proved to be the catalysts that made private colleges effective postsecondary education partners. The 1997 reform act established the Council on Postsecondary Education and shifted the Council's focus to one of developing, promoting, and measuring success based on statewide goals. Private colleges make a significant, measurable contribution to the achievement of statewide goals. Passage of the 1998 act included the commitment of a dedicated source of revenue in support of public and private

college students, resulting in a growing source of aid for students wishing to enroll in public and private colleges.

Other statutory changes, such as the requirement that AIKCU present an annual report, as well as state policymakers' willingness to include AIKCU leaders in virtually all major postsecondary policy initiatives, have solidified the role of private colleges in Kentucky's comprehensive postsecondary system.

The annual report provides a summary of the role private colleges are playing in the state's effort to meet its postsecondary education goals. It also provides an opportunity for AIKCU leaders to indicate ways in which their role can be further enhanced and challenges they face in that effort. Finally, it provides an opportunity for Council members to ask questions and offer suggestions to private college and university leaders.

***Powers and Duties of the Council:** The Council on Postsecondary Education in Kentucky shall: (13) Ensure that the state postsecondary system does not unnecessarily duplicate services and programs provided by private postsecondary institutions and shall promote maximum cooperation between the state postsecondary system and private postsecondary institutions. Receive and consider an annual report prepared by the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities stating the condition of independent institutions, listing opportunities for more collaboration between the state and independent institutions and other information as appropriate.