

President's Report to the Council on Postsecondary Education

Robert L. King – September 11, 2009



Senate Bill 1 update – The Senate Bill 1 Steering Committee met August 12, 2009. This committee will provide oversight to the implementation of the comprehensive process for revision of content standards, professional development needed for administrators, teachers, and faculty, and the development of unified strategies to promote readiness and college success. The postsecondary workgroups for mathematics and college readiness continue to meet. The mathematics group continues to refine standards and benchmarks for credit-bearing course readiness and the learning outcomes of introductory level classes. This work should be completed by mid-October. The National Council of Chief State School Officers did not release to the public its draft of the standards for language arts and mathematics. This draft now is scheduled for release September 15. The P-12 mathematics workgroup will begin meeting after that release. The College Readiness Workgroup began meeting in June. This group is defining evidence-based approaches for readiness, persistence, and graduation for underprepared students at the P-12 and college levels. Evidence-based approaches will be used in the development of unified strategies that reduce the need for remediation of students exiting high schools and to retain and graduate those students entering colleges and universities with developmental or supplemental coursework needs.

Diversity plan development – As development of the statewide diversity plan gains momentum, we are having conversations with the presidents, institutional staffs, and the Committee on Equal Opportunities about the potential impact of certain policies on a statewide diversity plan, if those policies are fully implemented. The CEO is moving forward to develop a planning document that is expected to be submitted to the Council for review and action in March 2010. We believe that document should reflect, in a thoughtful way, the basic priorities regarding system and campus diversity given certain policy structures. Throughout the planning process the committee has focused on embracing the full range of diversity, while at the same time keeping in mind special concerns and responsibility for the residents of the Commonwealth. Throughout the process Council staff will work closely with institutional representatives and the CEO to keep key constituents informed and to receive input to improve the statewide plan. At this stage of development the staff workgroup has completed sections of the plan related to the mission, vision, core values, and definition of diversity and are in the process of developing plan objectives.

Higher Education Work Group – The Higher Education Work Group is continuing its review of four key education policy areas: state student financial aid, transfer, college readiness, and cost containment and efficiencies on campus. The work group met in full session in July and August for presentations and discussion about student aid and transfer. Smaller discussions on both these topics are scheduled for September 9 and October 8. The full report is due to the Governor November 1. We are grateful to Governor Beshear for attending the August meeting, and for his comments about the important work ahead. At that meeting the work group heard presentations about transfer and the principles of a shared responsibility financial aid program. These are on the HEWG web site at <http://cpe.ky.gov/committees/hewg/HEWGAug19Agenda.htm>. David Adkisson, president of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, also attended the August HEWG meeting and talked briefly about the soon to be released Chamber 2009 Progress Report on Postsecondary Education. This is a follow-up to the

Chamber's 2007 status report on Kentucky higher education reform. You can find the progress report on the Council's website at http://cpe.ky.gov/committees/hewg/HEWG_Related+Materials.htm.

Campus visits – I am continuing to tour public and independent campuses as my schedule permits. Last month, I visited Western Kentucky University and Campbellsville University. Mr. Flanagan joined me at Campbellsville. The campus tours are extremely informative and I am very impressed with the faculty and campus leadership that I am meeting, as well as the commitment of the community leaders. I look forward to getting out to additional campuses this year and learning more about their programs and operations.

Legislative update – On August 10, Sue Cain and I, along with staff from the Kentucky Department of Education, testified before the Interim Joint Committee on Education, co-chaired by Senator Winters and Representative Rollins. I noted in my testimony that I was very pleased that Senators Winters and Kelly and Representatives Rollins and Moberly had taken time to work directly with the Council on Senate 1. Dr. Cain testified that the College Readiness Workgroup had begun reviewing initiatives and intervention techniques being used across the state in postsecondary and P-12 systems that are evidenced-based and promote college readiness, which has been compiled into a 23-page document of practices, and that the workgroup will be providing recommendations for professional development for P-16 educators on the common core standards, assessments, and intervention.

Governor's Conference on Postsecondary Education Trusteeship – The conference is tomorrow at the Sloan Convention Center. The theme is "Raising the Bar: Access, Quality, and Success." Some of you are participating in breakfast meetings beginning at 7 a.m. The opening session is at 8:30 a.m. and features a presentation by Kati Haycock, a nationally recognized education leader and advocate, who will discuss strategies for improving access and success in higher education, especially for low-income students and students of color. The morning also offers four concurrent policy sessions covering a range of topics, including policy priorities for the upcoming legislative session, enrollment management, the new ethics of trusteeship, and reimagining higher education, post recession. We are pleased that Governor Beshear will be joining us for the luncheon to discuss his agenda for postsecondary education. Lunch also will feature the presentation of the Acorn Awards for Faculty Excellence. This year's awards are sponsored by the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce. The afternoon will offer an interactive session about strategies on how to make good boards great led by Tom Meredith (former WKU president) and Terry MacTaggart, senior advisors at the Association of Governing Boards. After a wrap-up session, the conference will conclude at 4:30 p.m.

Staff notes –

- Reecie Stagnolia, Vice President of Kentucky Adult Education, has been elected to a two-year term on the executive committees of the National Council of State Directors of Adult Education (NCSDAE) and the National Adult Education Professional Development Consortium (NAEPDC). This will be Reecie's third term as a member of these committees which provides an opportunity for Kentucky's input in shaping national adult education policy and initiatives. NCSDAE focuses on federal legislative issues, works with other national adult education organizations, and maintains a nationwide communication network regarding national policy, legislation, and advocacy. NAEPDC provides professional development, policy analysis, and dissemination of information related to adult education at the national level.
- In the Information and Technology Unit, Heidi Hiemstra has been named Director of Information and Research and Mike Bailey Senior Associate for Information and Research. Both have been serving as interims in these positions and have accepted their current responsibilities on a permanent basis. This is well deserved recognition of their talents and contributions to helping CPE achieve its goals.