

LOCAL P-16 COUNCILS

Update

Since the last P-16 Council meeting, three proposals for Go Higher Community local council initiatives have been funded. They were submitted in response to an RFP issued for local council formation or special project funding.

The Louisville Metro P-16 Council: \$20,000

The Louisville Metro P-16 Council began in 2002 when Louisville was designated a Go Higher community. The resulting Workforce Education (WE) Initiative led by the mayor's office is a community-wide plan to raise the skills and education levels of citizens in the greater Louisville area. The \$20,000 grant will help fund a public awareness campaign to promote the value of educational credentials (secondary, GED, and postsecondary) to the community. A similar television and radio campaign conducted last year resulted in over 2,000 new enrollments in adult education programs.

The Northern Kentucky Council of Partners in Education: \$20,000

The Council of Partners in Education, formed over ten years ago, is Kentucky's oldest local P-16 council. Since its inception, the council has initiated efforts to create seamless career and educational pathways for northern Kentuckians of all ages. This \$20,000 grant will extend the work of the Council of Partners' American Diploma Project steering committee as it seeks to: 1) complete a "cross walk" from the ADP benchmarks to Kentucky's Core Content for Assessment, the Program of Studies, the ACT standards, and the ACT and GED assessments 2) identify gaps in existing curricula, and 3) create a model that bridges these gaps and enhances instruction. Local teachers and adult educators will be invited to apply for mini-grants to integrate this enhanced curriculum into their classrooms.

Pennyrile Region P-16 Council: \$11,000

The Pennyrile Region P-16 Council was created in 2001 and spans five counties in western Kentucky. The council has identified low college-going rates and below-average ACT scores, especially in Christian and Todd counties, as particular areas of concern. A grant of \$11,000 will be used to administer the ACT PLAN assessment to high school sophomores in the region and provide them with opportunities for intensive college and career counseling experiences with local college and business representatives.

Kentucky's existing councils are finding innovative ways and securing grassroots support to address local and regional needs. The Madisonville Area P-16 Council has secured \$100,000 in support from its Rotary Club and local businesses to support its two chief initiatives: Grassroots Revitalization of the Workforce (GROW), a communications campaign to increase the community's level of educational attainment, and School Counts, a scholarship program to make high school students aware of workplace expectations. High school students meeting criteria based on course-taking, GPA, attendance, and high school completion within eight consecutive

semesters will be awarded certificates attesting to their work and will be guaranteed up to \$1,000 per semester for four semesters at Madisonville Community College. Local business leaders are supporting this program to instill both the academic preparation and desired workplace skills of persistence and excellence in future employees. Dr. Judith Rhoads, president of Madisonville Community College, will address the P-16 Council at its September meeting.

In addition to its media campaign, the Louisville Area Workforce Education (WE) Initiative, which covers Jefferson County and surrounding areas, including four southern Indiana counties, is pursuing several initiatives spanning the P-16 spectrum. These include an intensive district-wide early literacy initiative (Every1 Reads), promotion of WorkKeys and the Kentucky Employability Certificate, development of initiatives to incorporate immigrant populations more completely into education and workforce, and efforts to more fully engage the business community in education at all levels. Dr. Daniel Ash, chair of the Louisville WE Initiative and executive director of Metropolitan College, will give an overview of the group's ongoing work.

Chair of the Kentucky Regional/Local P-16 Network Beth Jefferson will give a brief update on other local council activities across the Commonwealth.