

***Postsecondary Education Strategic Agenda 2011-15***  
***Working Draft, 10-20-10***

**Vision Statement**

All Kentuckians prepared to succeed in a global society.

**Mission Statement**

To prepare a highly educated citizenry and well trained workforce.

**Value Statements**

1. The highest standards of excellence in teaching, research, and public service.
2. Access for all who are committed to the pursuit of higher learning.
3. Cooperation, teamwork, and mutual respect that recognize the differing missions of institutions.
4. A culture of inclusion that provides equitable opportunities and celebrates diversity in people and thought.
5. A postsecondary education experience that prepares individuals to be informed, competent, knowledgeable, and engaged citizens.
6. Prudent fiscal stewardship that employs resources effectively and efficiently.
7. A commitment to continuous monitoring and improvement of performance.
8. Creative and innovative approaches to meeting the needs of the Commonwealth.
9. Engagement with business, industry, and other community partners to improve economic vitality and quality of life.
10. Education as a public good and an investment in Kentucky's future.

## College Readiness

**Goal: More high school graduates and working-age adults entering college will be prepared for credit bearing work.**

**Objective 1: Increase the number of college-ready students entering postsecondary institutions.**

**Strategies:**

- 1) Align K-12, adult education, and postsecondary education standards, curriculum, and assessment processes and ensure Kentucky Adult Education is effectively used as a key access point for preparing adult learners for college.
- 2) Develop and implement the P-20 data collaborative to improve reporting systems that better inform state policy decisions.
- 3) Strengthen the college-going and completion culture in Kentucky through improved outreach efforts and higher expectations for student performance.
- 4) Partner with K-12 providers to provide effective intervention strategies prior to postsecondary admission.

**Objective 2: Increase the effectiveness of Kentucky's K-12 educators.**

**Strategies:**

- 1) With EPSB and KDE, redesign the K-12 teacher preparation curriculum to reflect common core standards and to help attract, retain, and prepare highly effective teachers.
- 2) With EPSB and KDE, redesign professional development programs for teachers, school leaders, adult education instructors, and faculty members to reflect college and career readiness standards, provide clinical experiences, and opportunities for continued growth and improvement.
- 3) With EPSB, develop a systematic way to assess the effectiveness of Kentucky's teacher education programs.

## **STUDENT SUCCESS**

**Goal: More Kentuckians will complete college prepared for graduate study or a career, with the skills to be productive, engaged citizens.**

**Objective 1: Increase degree production and completion rates at all levels.**

**Strategies:**

- 1) Provide institutional and student incentives to increase degree production and completion rates.
- 2) Establish common student learning outcomes across the state for general education and pre-major requirements at the 100 and 200 levels.
- 3) Increase the use of technology to support student transitions and success (e.g. college and career advising, transfer orientation, dual-credit, transfer centers).
- 4) Identify effective local and regional initiatives that reinforce the value of a postsecondary credential and increase student learning for possible expansion statewide.

**Objective 2: Close achievement gaps so all students succeed at high levels.**

**Strategies:**

- 1) Review and restructure state and institutional financial aid programs to maintain high-quality and affordable postsecondary education opportunities that promote college success for low-to-moderate income, part-time, transfer, and adult students.
- 2) Redesign statewide professional development offerings for faculty and staff members around effective "closing the gap" strategies.
- 3) Develop new data and information tools to better analyze, track, and implement effective "closing the gap" strategies.

**Objective 3: Increase the quality of the student experience.**

**Strategies:**

- 1) Promote enriching educational experiences that increase student engagement in the learning process and provide hands-on preparation for life, careers, and

graduate education.

- 2) Promote student appreciation for diversity, cultural literacy, and international understanding.
- 3) Advocate for increased funding for college and university instruction to attract, retain, and develop high-quality faculty members.
- 4) Strengthen high-quality academic programs on every campus that enhance mission differentiation, build on program strengths, and bring greater national prominence to individual institutions.

## **RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS**

**GOAL: Kentucky will attract new research investments, produce degrees that grow the economy, and improve the educational attainment of its workforce.**

**Objective 1: Increase research and development to promote innovation, jobs, and economic development.**

### **Strategies:**

- 1) Create a Kentucky research collaborative anchored by the two research universities and operated in partnership with the comprehensive institutions to expand and upgrade existing technology transfer centers and business incubators; leverage university expertise; increase the commercialization of research and development; and pursue research investments in high-growth or emerging areas where Kentucky has the best chance of developing global expertise.
- 2) Develop and implement a strategic communications plan that highlights campus-based research and development initiatives and the impact of this work on Kentucky's economic competitiveness.
- 3) Secure additional funding for research matching programs, such as the Endowment Match Program and EPSCoR, and explore new funding approaches to maximize research investments (e.g., faculty, facilities, equipment).

**Objective 2: Increase the number of degrees and credentials in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and other high demand fields.**

### **Strategies:**

- 1) Create a partnership of state agencies, schools, colleges and universities, businesses and industries, and other organizations to provide ongoing leadership, advocacy, and collaborative strategies that support Kentucky's STEM agenda.
- 2) Build an innovative, creative, and entrepreneurial culture within the postsecondary education community and across the Commonwealth to stimulate economic and job growth.
- 3) Assess whether current and projected degree production matches current and projected job openings, especially in high-demand fields and other areas linked to economic growth.
- 4) Develop a statewide public awareness campaign to communicate the importance of increased educational attainment.
- 5) Work with partners within the service region to develop a unified plan for raising the educational attainment level of every region of the Commonwealth.

## **EFFICIENCY AND INNOVATION**

**Goal: Kentucky's colleges and universities will serve more students at high quality to meet the needs of the Commonwealth in an environment of constrained resources.**

**Objective 1: Increase academic productivity through program innovations and more strategic use of resources.**

### **Strategies:**

- 1) Emphasize course redesign and alternative methods of program delivery (e.g., greater use of technology, distance education, accelerated degree pathways) to increase efficiency, better address student educational and workforce needs, and maximize student success for both traditional and nontraditional students.
- 2) Promote new approaches that increase the motivation, satisfaction, skills, retention, and productivity of postsecondary faculty and staff.
- 3) Promote partnerships with independent colleges and universities, educational systems and other stakeholders to achieve economies of scale, eliminate duplication of programs and services, and contain costs.
- 4) Develop new feedback mechanisms to regularly assess quality improvement and gauge the extent to which Kentucky is benefiting from the work of the postsecondary system.

**Objective 2: Increase the effective use of college and university administrative resources.**

**Strategies:**

- 1) Optimize administrative and business operations by exploring options for consolidating and/or outsourcing pertinent operations, as well as joint purchasing and contracts.
- 2) Develop capital facilities policies that promote:
  - a. capital renewal and renovation;
  - b. deferred maintenance;
  - c. the leveraging of community assets;
  - d. alternative approaches to financing new classrooms and research and laboratory space; and
  - e. innovative uses of technology.