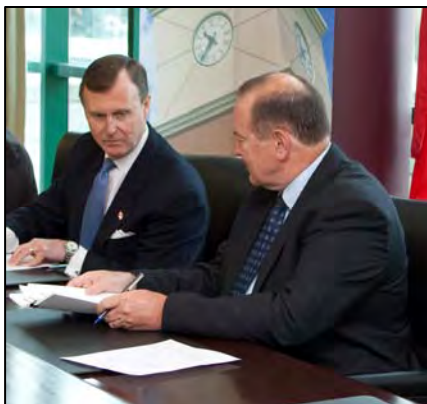


Western Kentucky University news for the Council on Postsecondary Education, January 2010



WKU President Gary Ransdell and Navitas CEO Rod Jones sign the affiliation agreement.

WKU, Navitas Announce Affiliation

WKU and the global education services provider Navitas Ltd. have established a University Pathways Program at the Bowling Green campus. The partnership, which was the first to be announced in the U.S., is expected to double the number of international students attending WKU over the next decade and provide them with the very best educational transition into the American higher education system.

WKU already has more than 700 international students enrolled on the campus, many international initiatives, international exchange and study abroad programs that encourage students to study in countries outside of the United States, the Harlaxton College and Semester at Sea programs, and the new Chinese Flagship Language program.

“Navitas brings international experience, a strong track record in education and the ability to attract enthusiastic students from a variety of backgrounds to WKU,” President Gary Ransdell said. “This is an exciting opportunity for us.”

State Rep. Jody Richards Receives Honorary Doctorate of Public Service

State Rep. Jody Richards, the longest serving Speaker of the House in Kentucky’s history and a former WKU faculty member, received an honorary degree of Doctor of Public Service during WKU’s fall commencement.

“Individuals who receive honorary degrees are selected because they exemplify the University’s values, vision and service mission,” President Gary Ransdell said.

“It’s a privilege to accept this honorary degree,” Richards said. “I am deeply grateful and humbled.” Richards, a native of Adair County, received a bachelor’s degree from Kentucky Wesleyan College and a master’s from the University of Missouri. He taught journalism and English at WKU from 1963 to 1970 and served as faculty advisor of *The Talisman* and the *College Heights Herald*, WKU’s yearbook and student newspaper.



Regens Chair Jim Meyer (left) and CPE President Dr. Bob King place the honorary doctoral hood on State Rep. Jody Richards.

WKU Campaign Passes \$150 Million Mark; University Sets Record for Cash Receipts

WKU has surpassed the \$150 million mark in its five-year, \$200 million New Century of Spirit Campaign and had cash receipts totaling a record \$12.5 million from July 1, 2009-Dec. 31, 2009. That’s a 71 percent increase over the same period in 2008. The total for the campaign, which will conclude on June 30, 2012, stands at \$156 million.

“Attaining the \$150 million benchmark this early in the campaign, despite the major economic downturn, indicates to me the strong support that exists for WKU on behalf of the schools many friends and alumni,” Campaign Co-Chair Don S. Vitale said.

“This has been a challenging economic environment, but our alumni and friends continue to support our shared vision,” President Ransdell said.

Three inducted into Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame

Three outstanding educators have been inducted as the third class of the Gov. Louie B. Nunn Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame. The three chosen by a statewide selection committee are Linda D. Childress of Cub Run, Walter Dick of Cumberland and Frances Steenbergen of Glasgow. They were inducted during a Jan. 26 ceremony at the State Capitol in Frankfort.

The Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame was created in 2000 through a gift by former Gov. Nunn, who hoped to recognize the vital role that primary and secondary teachers in Kentucky play in the education of young people and the positive impact education has on the state's economy. WKU was selected as the home of the Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame because of its 100-year history in teacher education.

"There are few individuals who have a greater ability to influence the lives of Kentucky's children than our educators," Gov. Steve Beshear said. "A good teacher can instill a love of learning that encourages students to stay in school, develop a voracious appetite for knowledge and continue on to postsecondary education. I am proud to honor three of these fine educators today from across the state: their commitment to and investment in Kentucky's future is unrivaled."

"The three individuals selected for induction in the class of 2010 exemplify the quality of accomplishments and professional commitment by educators that has placed Kentucky in a position of leadership in education reform," said Dr. Sam Evans, dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences.



Kentucky Mesonet Installs 45th Station

The Kentucky Mesonet's 45th station was installed in December in Knott County. "The installation of this station enabled us to meet our goal of 25 new stations this year," said Dr. Stuart Foster, director of the Mesonet and the Kentucky Climate Center at WKU.

The Mesonet stations collect real-time weather and climate data on temperature, precipitation, humidity, solar radiation, wind speed and direction. Data is packaged into observations and transmitted to the Kentucky Climate Center at WKU every five minutes, 24 hours per day, throughout the year and is available online at www.kymesonet.org. Initial funding for the project was secured by U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell through a \$2.9 million federal appropriation for the Kentucky Climate Center, part of WKU's Applied Research and Technology Program in the Ogden College of Science and Engineering.

WKU Renews Scientific Agreements with Chinese Universities

WKU has renewed coal and emission research agreements with two universities in China. On Jan. 16 in Beijing, WKU President Gary Ransdell renewed a scientific cooperation agreement with Taiyuan University of Technology to intensify efforts on coal chemistry and multi-pollutant emission control technologies and with Anhui University of Science and Technology to intensify efforts on coal combustion, carbon dioxide capture and multi-pollutant emission control technologies.

Dr. Wei-Ping Pan, director of WKU's Institute for Combustion Science and Environmental Technology, and others at WKU have been working with Chinese researchers for the past two decades on air quality issues.

In the past 15 years, more than 10 professors from Taiyuan University of Technology have visited WKU. Dr. Ransdell visited TYUT in 1999. In the past 20 years, more than 24 professors from Anhui University of Science and Technology have visited WKU. The school's president Mingxu Zhang was a visiting scholar at WKU between 1990 and 1992.

Natural Gas Boiler to Save on Coal, Heating Costs

A new natural gas boiler could save WKU half of coal usage for heating. The \$1 million project to buy and install the boiler also included the removal of two older boilers that have not been in commission for 15 years. The new 30-foot-tall burner joins three others, two of which burn coal and have been at WKU since the early 1950s. All of the boilers will work together to create enough steam to heat nearly every building on campus with a three-mile-long steam line that runs around campus in a loop.

The new boiler greatly reduces the university's dependency on coal and its long-term effects on the environment, helping reduce its carbon footprint. The University will use natural gas boilers to heat the campus unless temperatures drop too low. Heating will then be supplemented with coal.

For more WKU news, go to <http://www.wku.edu/news/index.html> or <http://wkunews.wordpress.com/>. Become a fan on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WKUNews.