

**NEWCITIES INSTITUTE AND THE  
PARTNERSHIP FOR SUCCESSFUL SCHOOLS**

**P-16 Council  
Agenda Item VIII  
June 10, 2008**

Council members know the Partnership for Successful Schools as the organization that has sponsored the Kentucky State Scholars program and a variety of research projects, literacy initiatives, and partnerships with employers.<sup>1</sup> The NewCities Institute is the nonprofit corporation established by the League of Cities to research, study, educate, and innovate communities about civic engagement. These two nationally recognized nonprofit organizations based in Kentucky plan to merge their efforts in order to intensify the processes and results of community engagements.

Elected officials, such as mayors and judge executives, are in key positions to serve as messengers, conveners, and visionary leaders for escalating P-20 education improvement. The Kentucky League of Cities and the NewCities Institute work directly with these leaders in improving the quality of life in communities across the state. The NewCities Institute has developed and implemented multiple education strategies with universities and the community and technical college system. The Partnership for Successful Schools will merge its work with these two entities. The Partnership brings to this merger 17 years of leveraging education improvement through public information campaigns, research and policy development, and development of results-based initiatives that link community members and influential employees to improvement of student performance.

Community engagement that strengthens the economic and social prosperity of communities must be based on a framework that demonstrates a solid database of information; a cohesive set of appropriate initiatives that address community issues and produce results; and a system that lessens the “silo” mentality that may exist between and among the education, workforce, economic development, and government sectors of communities.

At the June State P-16 Council meeting Sylvia L. Lovely, chief executive officer and executive director, Kentucky League of Cities; Tom Prather, executive vice president, NewCities Institute; Billy Harper, board chair, Partnership for Successful Schools; and Carolyn Witt Jones, executive director, Partnership for Successful Schools, will describe the structure of the merger and its potential impact on communities, share findings of new jointly released community engagement research, and discuss potential links to state and local P-16 goals and initiatives.

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<sup>1</sup> See the June 21, 2006, agenda <http://cpe.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/0F8D444E-6D4D-47A3-A12F-691EDA57A2F6/0/VC2KentuckyScholarsProgramCarolynWittJones.pdf> and the September 29, 2004 agenda.