

MEETING MINUTES

Approved by the Group on September 2, 2026

Who: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
Type: Task Force on AI, Higher Education and the Workforce
Date: July 30, 2026
Time: 2:00 p.m. ET (1:00 p.m. CT)
Location: Virtual meeting via ZOOM; livestreamed on CPE YouTube page

CALL TO ORDER

The Task Force on AI, Higher Education and the Workforce met on Thursday, July 30, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. ET. The meeting occurred virtually via ZOOM teleconference and was livestreamed to the CPE YouTube page.

ATTENDANCE

The following group members attended the meeting:

- Cody Bumgardner - CPE Kentucky Regional Optical Network (KRON)
- Beth Davisson - Kentucky Chamber / Kentucky Chamber Foundation
- Tabitha Berger - Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), Office of Career and Technical Education
- Ben Maynard - Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), Office of Education Technology
- Mark Ciampa - Western Kentucky University (WKU)
- Alisher Burikhanov - Education and Labor Cabinet / Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB)
- Xinxing (Wu) Wu - Kentucky State University (KSU)
- Ashley Ireland - Murray State University
- Carrie Ernst - Eastern Kentucky University (EKU)
- Ian McClure - University of Kentucky (UK)
- Jeff Guan - University of Louisville (UofL)
- John Nelson - Morehead State University (MSU)
- Anne Kenworthy - Spalding University
- Machica McClain - University of the Cumberlands
- Sam Keathley - Kentucky Center for Statistics (KYSTATS)
- Dr. Ryan Hall - Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS)
- Jordan Harris - Deloitte Consulting
- Rolf Provan - Luckett & Farley Architects and Engineers
- Brett Oliver - Baptist Health
- Stephen Yungbluth - Northern Kentucky University (NKU)

The following CPE staff members attended the meeting:

- Travis Powell - Executive Vice President & General Counsel
- Travis Muncie - Assistant Vice President for Data Research and Advanced Analytics

INTRODUCTIONS OF CPE STAFF AND TASK FORCE MEMBERS

The inaugural meeting of the CPE AI Task Force brought together representatives from Kentucky's public and private higher education institutions, K-12 education, state agencies, workforce organizations, industry, healthcare, and business. Members introduced themselves and shared their experience with artificial intelligence and their reasons for participating in the task force.

OVERVIEW OF TASK FORCE CHARGE AND OBJECTIVES

Mr. Powell reviewed the purpose of the task force, emphasizing that CPE's role is to identify where it can provide the greatest value in helping Kentucky's postsecondary institutions and workforce prepare for the rapid advancement of AI. Rather than duplicating existing efforts, the task force will leverage expertise across the state to identify priority areas where collaboration can accelerate progress.

The task force charge includes:

- Establishing a baseline understanding of AI's impact on higher education and Kentucky's workforce.
- Identifying the highest-priority impact areas.
- Developing strategic goals and recommendations for each priority area.
- Presenting recommendations to the CPE Board and identifying implementation strategies.

SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS FROM MEMBERS

Mr. Muncie presented results from the pre-meeting survey completed by task force members. Findings indicated that most organizations remain in the exploratory stages of AI adoption, with significant concerns about Kentucky's overall preparedness for an AI-enabled workforce.

DISCUSSION OF SURVEY RESULTS AND IDENTIFY INFORMATION GAPS

Participants identified funding limitations, faculty readiness, AI literacy, workforce alignment, infrastructure, and opportunities for collaboration as major themes.

DISCUSS POTENTIAL PRIORITY IMPACT AREAS

The remainder of the meeting focused on an open discussion of survey findings. Members

emphasized the need for:

- AI literacy as a foundational skill for all graduates.
- Communities of practice that connect institutions and employers.
- Collaboration across sectors to avoid duplicating work.
- Shared resources, professional development, and infrastructure.
- Better evaluation of AI tools and their effectiveness.
- Flexible governance and policies that recognize differences across institutions and disciplines.
- Strong partnerships between higher education and employers to align workforce needs with educational outcomes.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was brought before the group.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m. ET.