

MEETING MINUTES

Approved by the Committee on January 26, 2026

Who: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
Meeting Type: Committee on Educational Opportunities
Date: October 27, 2025
Time: 1:00 p.m. ET
Location: ZOOM Teleconference

CALL TO ORDER

The Committee on Educational Opportunities (CEO) met Monday, October 27, 2025, at 1:00 p.m., ET. The meeting occurred by ZOOM teleconference. Chair Elaine Walker presided.

ROLL CALL

There was a quorum of 6 voting committee members in attendance.

- Rev. CB Akins – attended
- Whitney Allen – attended
- Dr. Rochelle Brown – attended
- David Carpenter – attended
- Robert Croft – did not attend
- Dr. Kellie Ellis – attended
- Elaine Walker - attended

Dr. Dawn Offutt, Executive Director for Student Access, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the June 23, 2025, meeting were approved as distributed.

WELCOME/CPE UPDATES

CPE President Aaron Thompson provided an update on his advocacy for the work of the Council, including the funding of the fifth GEAR UP Kentucky grant, amid national discussions of cutting funding for particular initiatives. He touted Kentucky's postsecondary accomplishments including our top ranking in retention, persistence, and graduation rates and debt load reduction. Dr. Thompson expressed concern about changes in Pell grant status. He charged the Committee to use data not only to determine gains but also for outlining opportunities for growth among student populations.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AND POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION PRESENTATION

Dr. Offutt reviewed survey results describing the experiences of K-12 practitioners who work with students with disabilities. Following the survey discussion, Kim Hinton, Coordinator of Due Process and Instruction at the Central Kentucky Educational Cooperative, provided insight into ways K-12 practitioners and postsecondary practitioners can partner to improve the transition of students with disabilities into postsecondary education.

GEAR UP KENTUCKY PRESENTATION

Mr. Bruce Brooks, CPE Senior Fellow, gave a high-level overview of the newly awarded GEAR UP Kentucky grant. This serves as the fifth grant that the Council has received, and its initiatives focus on preparing students in middle and high school from school districts with a significant percentage of students from low income households for transition in to postsecondary education.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Dr. Offutt shared the passing of CEO member Dr. Luv'Tesha Robertson. Chair Walker presented a resolution to the Committee for approval.

MOTION: Mr. Carpenter moved the Committee approve the proposed resolution. Rev. Akins seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 2:10 p.m. ET.