

MEETING MINUTES

Approved by the Council on September 28, 2026

Who: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
Meeting Type: Work Session
Date: June 11, 2026
Time: 2:00 p.m. ET
Location: University of the Cumberlands, Grace Crum Rollins Fine Arts Center,
Williamsburg – Kohn Theater

WELCOME REMARKS

The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education held a work session on Thursday, June 11, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. ET. The meeting occurred at the Grace Crum Rollins Fine Arts Center at the University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg, Kentucky. It was also livestreamed by ZOOM webinar. Vice Chair Elaine Walker presided.

ATTENDANCE

There was a quorum of 11 voting Council members in attendance.

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| • Rev. CB Akins – did not attend | • Karyn Hoover – in person |
| • Jai Bokey – in person | • Dennis Repenning – in person |
| • Jacob Brown – did not attend | • LaDonna Rogers – did not attend |
| • Lindsey Case – in person | • Madison Silvert – virtual (until 3:00) |
| • Jennifer Collins – in person | • Elaine Walker – in person |
| • Dr. Kellie Ellis – in person | • Kevin Weaver – virtual |
| • Dr. Meredith Figg – in person | • Michael Wheeler – did not attend |
| • Sean Garber – virtual | • Comm. Robbie Fletcher – did not attend |

CPE President Aaron Thompson served as secretary of the board, per the CPE Bylaws. Heather Faesy, CPE program manager, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

LEADING WITH EXCELLENCE: CONTINUING EDUCATION SESSION

Mr. Travis Powell, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, led a board education session that focused on reviews of fiduciary duties and effective leadership, open records and open meetings, and CPE's committee structure. Ms. Faesy also provided the Council with an update on the redevelopment of the virtual orientation courses for new board members.

CPE HORIZON: ALIGNING MISSION AND MESSAGE

Dr. Amanda Ellis, Senior Vice President of K-12 Policy and Programs and Dr. Dawn Offutt, Executive Director of Student Access, shared with the Council the agency project designed to complete the following objectives:

- Develop a unified communication strategy that aligns CPE's policy, research, and programmatic work with its strategic agenda.
- Enhance transparency and collaboration across agency units, breaking down silos.
- Streamline internal processes for board agenda setting and stakeholder communication.
- Engage board members, legislators, and external partners with clear, impactful messaging.
- Establish measurable outcomes to evaluate the strategy's success.

The discussion focused on the alignment process as well as overall observations. Ms. Jessica Fletcher, Chief Communication Officer, discussed the study's resulting communication strategy and CPE's brand refresh aimed at increasing visibility.

HORIZON SERIES, PART 1: CONNECT THE PATH

Dr. Ellis and Dr. Offutt then introduced how the Horizon's project conceptualized the Council's work into a specific pathway structure. The CPE Pathway Series creates a shared understanding of Kentucky's pathway from education to workforce success, connects CPE strategies, policies, research, and initiatives into one cohesive framework, and ties measurable outcomes and policy direction.

The CPE Pathway is as follows: Connect the Path, Chart the Path, Continue the Path, Complete the Path, and Climb the Path.

Connect the Path focuses on the barriers Kentucky students face moving into postsecondary education. Staff provided details on the challenges in this area, the current strategies in place (programs and policies, products and services, and partnerships), how success will be measured, and the data points being used to measure progress.

CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT SESSION & TOUR, RECEPTION & DINNER

Staff from the University of the Cumberlands led the Council on a tour of the campus. Following the tour, they returned to the Fine Arts Center for a networking reception and dinner.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned for the evening at 7:15 p.m. ET.