

# KY COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING



April 15, 2022 – 9:00 a.m. ET

Morehead State University, Adron Doran University Center

Livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/c/KentuckyCouncilOnPostsecondaryEducationFrankfort>

*\*Indicates action item*

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<i>Next Council Meetings: June 16-17, 2022 @ CPE Offices, Frankfort</i>	

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
Council on Postsecondary Education

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Type: Business Meeting  
Date: January 28, 2022  
Time: 10:00 a.m. ET  
Location: Virtual Meeting - Committee members by ZOOM teleconference, Public viewing hosted on CPE YouTube Page.

**WELCOMING & CALL TO ORDER**

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The Council on Postsecondary Education met Friday, January 28, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., ET. The meeting occurred virtually via ZOOM teleconference. Members of the public were invited to view the livestream on the CPE YouTube page.

Chair Lucas Mentzer presided.

**ATTENDANCE**

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Members attended: Colby Birkes, Kellie Ellis, Eric Farris, Lori Harper, Karyn Hoover, Lucas Mentzer, Richard Nelson, Vidya Ravichandran, Madison Silvert (joined at 11:00), Elaine Walker, Kevin Weaver, Carol Wright (joined at 10:20) and Commissioner Jason Glass.

Members not in attendance: Muhammad Babar and Ronald Beal.

CPE President Aaron Thompson served as Secretary of the board, per the CPE Bylaws. Ms. Heather Faesy, CPE's senior associate for Board Relations, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

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The minutes of the November 4-5, 2021 meetings were approved as distributed.

**REPORT FROM CPE PRESIDENT AARON THOMPSON**

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President Aaron Thompson provided an update on the Strategic Agenda launch event on February 9, 2022, work completed thus far on the Kentucky Graduate

Profile Academy, the announcement of the 2022 Summer Bridget Program grants, and an overview of the 2022 biennial budget version passed by the House on January 21.

Jennifer Fraker, CPE's Executive Director and Legislative Liaison, provided an overview on specific bills of interest filed thus far and how they would impact postsecondary education.

## **REPORT FROM KDE COMMISSIONER JASON GLASS**

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Kentucky Department of Education Commissioner Jason Glass provided an update on P-12-related bills filed during the 2022 legislative session and discussed the ACT assessment tool as well as college admissions in the future.

## **ACADEMIC AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES COMMITTEE – REPORT AND ACTION ITEMS**

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Committee Chair Lori Harper presented the Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee Report, which included the approval of Western Kentucky University's Cultural Competency Credential Certification and an update on the development work of a state web portal to help students transition to college. The Committee also reviewed and approved three new academic program proposals:

- Master of Science in Cardiovascular Perfusion from Northern Kentucky University.
- Bachelor of Science in General Studies from the University of Louisville
- Master of Science in Health Teacher Education from the University of Louisville

**MOTION:** The Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee recommendation of approval of the three new academic programs served as the motion. A second was not needed.

**VOTE:** The motion passed.

Lee Nimocks, CPE's Vice President of Strategy and Chief of Staff, also provided an update on the implementation strategy of the 2022-30 Statewide Strategic Agenda.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – REPORT**

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Chair Mentzer presented the Executive Committee report which included a report on the FY 2021 audit, a development update on the management and improvement plan for Kentucky State University as well as the current state of the presidential search process, and a discussion on a proposed timeline for the annual evaluation of the president. There were no action items presented for consideration by the Council.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE – REPORT**

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Chair Lucas Mentzer presented the Finance Committee which included an overview of budget proposals submitted by both the Governor and the House and how those compared with the budget recommendation we approved in November, and the tuition setting process for the upcoming academic year. There were no action items presented for consideration by the Council.

## **COMMITTEE ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES – REPORT**

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Committee Chair Elaine Walker presented the Committee on Equal Opportunities report which included information on the 2022 DEI evaluation process and WKU's newly approved Culturally Competency Credential Program. She also mentioned that the current diversity policy is under review and may come before the Council for potential revision in the next year. There were no action items presented for consideration by the Council.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE – REPORT AND ACTION ITEM**

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Committee Chair Lori Harper presented the Nominating Committee Report. After seeking out nominations and expressions of interest, the Committee has unanimously agreed to nominate Lucas Mentzer for re-election as Chair, and Eric Farris for re-election as Vice Chair.

**MOTION:** The Nominating Committee recommendation of approval served as the motion. A second was not needed.

**VOTE:** The motion passed.

## **CAMPUS “GOOD NEWS” REPORTS**

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Reports from the institutions were provided in the agenda materials.

## **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

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Chair Mentzer appointed Eric Farris, Lori Harper, Madison Silvert, Karyn Hoover and himself to the 2022 Executive Committee. He will serve as chair.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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The Council adjourned at 11:10 a.m. ET.

**MINUTES REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TITLE:** Proposed Council Resolution

**RECOMMENDATION:** A resolution for Ronald Beal will be presented for approval.

**PRESENTER:** Lucas Mentzer, CPE Chair

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### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Periodically, the Council recognizes certain individuals for their support of and service to postsecondary education in Kentucky. At the meeting, a resolution for Council member, Ronald Beal, will be proposed for approval by the Council. A copy of the resolution can be found in your board materials.



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A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING

**RONALD C. BEAL**

for his service to the Council on Postsecondary Education  
and the Commonwealth of Kentucky

WHEREAS, Ronald C. Beal served on the Council on Postsecondary Education from July 2016 through April 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Council has benefited tremendously from Mr. Beal's professional skills, experiences and relationships as President and CEO of Luvata's Tubes Division, a global leader in the manufacture of copper tubes for the air conditioning and refrigeration industry; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Beal has advocated for the betterment of Kentucky's workforce and citizenry through increased levels of educational attainment; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Beal's business acumen provided the Council with key insights on operations management, budget development, strategic planning and creating a culture of accountability; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Beal was active with the Council, having served on the Executive Committee for two years; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Council value and respect Beal's intelligence, compassion, generosity, work ethic and desire to serve, and the application of these skills to public higher education;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council on Postsecondary Education does hereby adopt this resolution, April 15, 2022, thanking Ron Beal for his dedication and service, and wishing him continued success and good fortune.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aaron Thompson", written over a horizontal line.

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Lucas Mentzer, Chair

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Aaron Thompson, Ph.D., President



**TITLE:** Report from CPE President, Aaron Thompson

**DESCRIPTION:** President Thompson will highlight specific initiatives during his report to the Council. This serves as his official report for April 15, 2022

**PRESENTER:** Aaron Thompson, CPE President

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### **2022 Legislative Session**

Before legislators gaveled out for a veto recess, they passed a landmark state budget that reflects the value of higher education to our Commonwealth and the unique role it plays in economic development and quality of life. This budget will empower Kentucky colleges and universities to remain affordable for students, enhance their campus infrastructure, and drive life-changing research in health care, agriculture, manufacturing and more. Highlights include:

- \$80 million in new funding for the Postsecondary Education Performance Fund in each year (\$97.3 million in total when added to the current \$17.3 million base).
- \$683.5 million for asset preservation pools (bond funded, with half of the funding available in the first year, and half in the second), with a required institutional match of 30% for research institutions, 15% for all others.
- \$811.9 million for new construction or renovation projects on postsecondary campuses.
- \$40.0 million for Bucks for Brains (\$30.0 million for research institutions, \$10.0 million for comprehensive institutions).
- \$2.2 million in 2022-23 for the Workforce Development Trust Fund (KCTCS).
- \$23.0 million non-interest-bearing loan for KSU in the current year (2021-22) to address financial instability due to prior year deficits and structural imbalances.
- \$5.0 million in 2022-23 and \$10.0 million in 2023-24 to be distributed as goals and benchmarks are met in accordance with a new management improvement plan
- \$1.5 million to fund CPE oversight of KSU in 2022-23

### **Student Success Summit**

Earlier this week, CPE hosted the Student Success Summit, which is an annual convening of faculty, staff and administrators from across the Commonwealth. Held at the Louisville Marriott East, the theme of year's Summit was "Innovation through Collaboration" and it had four goals:

- To inspire innovation and collaboration in our work.
- To raise awareness of the new statewide strategic agenda and coherence with the Council's initiatives
- To accelerate progress on student success initiatives.
- To foster connection and community among colleagues across institutions.

Building upon the CPE Student Success Framework, this event featured keynote speakers and hands-on learning workshops that focused on connecting, charting, continuing and completing pathways to success.

I'm pleased to report that over 370 people were in attendance. Featured speakers included myself, Nancy Zimpher of the National Association of System Heads and Joe Cuseo, Professor Emeritus at Marymount California University. The highlight of the Summit was the Student Panel featuring current students from Bluegrass Community and Technical College, Northern Kentucky University, the University of Kentucky, and one is a graduate from Hazard Community and Technical College and current student at Morehead State University. My son, Michael Thompson, served as the moderator.

Breakout session focused on a number of issues including transfer, work-based learning opportunities, student financial stability, clear pathways to degree completion, cultural competence, and how the statewide strategic agenda will guide student success. Several workshops were also held for the Kentucky Graduate Profile Academy as well as both the Network Demonstration Project and KY Purpose First campus teams.

### **GEAR UP Institute for a College-Going Culture**

On Thursday, March 22, staff and 9th and 12th grade students from the 12 school districts served by GEAR UP Kentucky participated in the annual GEAR UP Kentucky Institute for a College-Going Culture. The Institute, which featured the theme "The Comeback from COVID," was held at the Griffin Gate Marriott in Lexington. Nearly 175 attendees participated in this informational and inspirational day, kicked off by GEAR UP Kentucky Executive Director Kim Welch and myself.

### **Implementation of the 2022-30 Statewide Strategic Agenda**

The campuses have submitted their action plans, which outline strategies they will pursue to achieve statewide strategic agenda objectives, and they have negotiated targets for key performance indicators. These action plans were shared with the Academic and Strategic Initiatives committee at their March 30, 2022 meeting, and campus presidents will be invited to speak to the Council annually regarding their contributions and key performance measures. The full schedule will be shared in May.

### **The Kentucky Advising Academy (KAA)**

Supported by the Commonwealth Education Continuum, the Kentucky Advising Academy (KAA) will officially kick off this spring. Led by staff member Destiny O' Rourke, KAA supports postsecondary advising efforts by providing professional learning opportunities for school counselors, Family Resource/Youth Service Center Coordinators and professional educators in postsecondary advising roles. Services provided by the academy aim to build knowledge, capacity and community among practitioners. Offerings include a podcast, webinars, newsletter and professional development opportunities.

### **Speaking Events/Interviews**

I continue to meet with national and statewide organizations to talk about higher education issues and trends. Here are some highlights since the last CPE meeting:

- WEKU radio interview on Thompsons' Scholars.
- 5 Questions with Aaron Thompson that ran on page 1 of the Lexington Herald-Leader.
- In conversation with Rick Howlett on WFPL on the State of Higher Education in Kentucky.
- State of Higher Education and CPE's Top Priorities with Mario Anderson, Spectrum News 1 KY.
- Spoke at AP Day at the Capital and Posters at the Capital.
- Gave the keynote for the Brown Fellows Leadership Dinner and the Kentucky Higher Education Leadership Summit.
- Spoke at the Allegany Cattaraugus Superintendents' Meeting in New York.
- Spoke to the new cohort of ALDI (Academic Leadership and Development Institute) participants about transformative leadership

**TITLE:** 2022 Legislative Session Update

**DESCRIPTION:** CPE staff will provide an update on the 2022 Regular Legislative Session as it pertains to postsecondary education.

**PRESENTER:** Jennifer Fraker, CPE's Executive Director and Legislative Liaison

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The 2022 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly officially began on January 4, 2022. The budget session is scheduled to last 60 working days, with an adjournment date of April 14, the latest possible day lawmakers are allowed to meet in a regular session according to the state constitution.

As of April 6, 2022, 22 bills have been signed into law or have been filed with the Secretary of State's office for enactment. Approximately 30 bills are with the Governor for consideration; a number of other bills are nearly at the Governor's desk.

Staff will provide a review of the legislation that impacts postsecondary education.

## 2022 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly

### *Final Enacted Legislation Related to Postsecondary Education*

#### Senate Bills

**Senate Bill 6** (Sen. Wise) creates new sections of KRS Chapter 164 to define terms to provide protections for student athletes seeking compensation through name, image and likeness agreements or seeking an athlete agent and provides similar protections for institutions.

- Establishes prohibitions, conditions and limitations on athletes earning compensation through name, image and likeness agreements.
- Prohibits name, image and likeness compensation as an inducement.
- Prohibits institutions, associations or affiliated organizations from providing compensation for name, image and likeness of a student athlete and other similar activities.
- Establishes a process for institutions to review name, image and likeness agreements of student athletes.
- Authorizes institutions to establish reasonable restrictions on name, image and likeness activities of student athletes.
- Provides protections for institutions and their employees in actions taken in the course of administering intercollegiate athletics.
- Requires institutions to provide financial literacy and life skills education to student athletes.
- Authorizes institutions to provide ongoing support to student athletes and information on name, image and likeness to the general public.
- Establishes that name, image and likeness agreement documents and related information in possession of public postsecondary institutions are protected student records and limits applicability.

This law authorizes agreements made pursuant to Executive Order 2021-418 for one year and nullifies the executive order. An emergency clause is included.

**\*Senate Bill 9** (Sen. West) creates a new section of KRS Chapter 164 to require postsecondary institutions offering early childhood or elementary teacher preparation programs to include evidence-based reading instructional programming related to reading instruction in the areas of phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

- Amends KRS 158.840 to require the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) to submit an annual report to the Interim Joint Committee on Education (IJCE) on the compliance of teacher preparation programs to this Act.

This law shall be known as the Read to Succeed Act.

**Senate Bill 10** (Sen. Mills) amends KRS 314.111 to prohibit the Board of Nursing from restricting nursing school or nursing program student enrollment if the school or program has at least an 80% average pass rate for the NCLEX. Describes nursing education levels needed to teach at various types of nursing programs. Amends KRS 314.121 to establish Board of Nursing membership. An emergency clause is included.

**Senate Bill 83** (Sen. Mills) creates a new section of KRS Chapter 164 to require a public postsecondary or private postsecondary education institution that is a member of a national intercollegiate athletic association to designate all intercollegiate and intramural athletics authorized by the institution based on biological sex of students eligible to participate. Requires that institutions prohibit biological male students from participating in womens' athletics. Prohibits designated agencies from entertaining complaints or investigations of policies. This law shall be known as the "Fairness in Womens' Sports Act."

**Senate Bill 94** (Sen. Carroll) amends KRS 164.787 to add eligibility for the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship Program to students with intellectual disabilities enrolled in comprehensive transition and postsecondary programs, and removes limitation on receiving the scholarship for four academic terms.

**Senate Bill 163** (Sen. Storm) amends KRS 164.7874 to remove the prohibition against KEES eligibility for convicted felons. Provides that a person convicted of certain felonies shall not be eligible for financial aid programs while incarcerated instead of five years after sentence completion. Amends KRS 164.7884 to define "proprietary school" and "qualified proprietary school program" and allows use of KEES funds for enrollment in a qualified proprietary school program. Amends KRS 165.7879 to allow a student who attends an out-of-state high school or Department of Defense school due to a parent's military transfer to earn a KEES award if the student earned a base amount in a previous year at a Kentucky high school.

**Senate Bill 265** (Sen. Givens) directs the Governor to replace the Kentucky State University (KSU) board of regents by April 1, 2022. Directs the Governor's Postsecondary Education Nominating Committee to submit 16 nominations to the Governor by April 4, 2022 notwithstanding the political representation, institutional graduate and geographical requirements for board composition. An emergency clause is included.

## Senate Resolutions

**Senate Resolution 241** (Sen. Adams) confirms the appointment of Madison Crawford Silvert to the Council on Postsecondary Education for a term expiring December 31, 2025.

**Senate Resolution 244** (Sen. Adams) confirms the appointment of Elaine Nogay Walker to the Council on Postsecondary Education for a term expiring December 31, 2026

**Senate Resolution 252** (Sen. Adams) confirms the appointment of Karyn Hoover to the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education for a term expiring December 31, 2026.

**Senate Joint Resolution 150** (Sen. Douglas) terminates the declaration of emergency regarding the SARS-COV-2 virus in 2020 Executive Order 2020-215 and all subsequent actions directives based upon the declaration of emergency in 2020 Executive Order 2020-215. An emergency clause is included.

## House Bills

**House Bill 1** (Rep. Petrie) serves as the State/Executive Branch Budget and relates to appropriations measures providing funding and establishing conditions for the operations, maintenance, support and functioning of the government of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and its various officers, cabinets, departments, boards, commissions, institutions, subdivisions, agencies and other state-supported activities.

**House Bill 9** (Rep. McCoy) establishes the Kentucky Public Charter School Pilot Project and permits the Northern Kentucky University board of regents to become a pilot project authorizer. Requires at least one charter authorization in Louisville and northern Kentucky and requires pilot authorizers to submit reports. Requires the Office of Education Accountability to review the performance of pilot public charter schools.

**\*House Bill 250** (Rep. Tipton) requires CPE to create and oversee a management improvement plan for KSU and declares a state of financial exigency at KSU.

- Requires CPE and KSU to make various reports on the plan to LRC.
- Appropriates \$23 million to KSU in fiscal year 2021-2022.
- Requires CPE to make recommendations for repayment.
- Requires CPE to provide annual reports on the status of the KSU loan.
- Affirms the board of regents' authority to terminate employees.
- Requires CPE to approve KSU expenditures more than \$5,000.
- Directs the KSU board of regents to cease its presidential search and to conduct an interim presidential search.
- Requires KSU to conduct a review of all departments and academic programs, eliminate programs as needed, and terminate employees accordingly.
- Requires KSU to develop a performance review process for all faculty and staff and conduct reviews within one year.
- Requires KSU to terminate employees who fail to meet performance criteria.
- Delays initial performance reviews of tenured faculty with an insufficient body of work for evaluation for up to one year.
- Requires an additional review of all tenured faculty by June 30, 2027.
- Provides that costs related to personnel actions shall be reported to the General Assembly for consideration in determining future budget appropriations.
- Requires CPE to contract with an independent third party to make recommendations on the university's structure and evaluate performance.
- Creates the KSU loan repayment trust fund.
- Appropriates \$5 million in 2022-2023 and \$10 million in 2023-2024 to the CPE for distribution to KSU upon meeting goals and benchmarks contained in the management improvement plan.
- Appropriates \$1.5 million to CPE for carrying out its duties under the Act.

An emergency clause is included.

**House Bill 277** (Rep. Thomas) amends KRS 161.048 to create an Option 9 alternative certification pathway for teacher candidates using a residency program and "grow your own approach". Establishes requirements for the residency program to include a partnership with an accredited university to develop an expedited certification program that results in a bachelor's degree and initial certification within three school years. Authorizes any person receiving emergency teaching certification during the 2021-2022 school year to be eligible to renew that certification during the 2022-2023 school year. Allows all school districts to be eligible for participation.

**House Bill 283** (Rep. Riley) amends KRS 160.380 to permit a school district to accept a background check completed by an accredited teacher education institution for a student teacher.

**House Bill 290** (Rep. Banta) amends KRS 164.370 to define terms and requires a governing board of a public postsecondary education institution to adopt a code for student conduct, establish minimum procedural requirements for a nonacademic violation when the violation is punishable by a suspension, expulsion, or termination of student housing, including a presumption of innocence, written notice, maintenance of an administrative file, the right to be present and participate meaningfully, the right to fair and impartial treatment, and the ability to bring a support person.

- Establishes enhanced minimum procedural requirements for a nonacademic violation when the violation is punishable by a suspension of three days or more, expulsion or termination of

student housing, including the right to be represented by counsel, to present relevant hearing evidence and to cross-examine hearing testimony.

- Provides a respondent that is suspended for three days or more, expelled or has his or her campus housing terminated the right to appeal the results of a disciplinary hearing.
- Provides that a participant has the right to appeal a Title IX allegation that does not result in a finding of a violation.
- Provides a respondent or designated complainant shall have the right to appeal a final order of the governing board in Circuit Court and be entitled to damages from the institution, including reasonable attorney's fees and court costs.
- Provides that nothing in the section shall be interpreted to impede or delay law enforcement, impair an institution's ability to take reasonable interim measures in a student discipline matter, impair an institution's ability to effectuate a valid judicial order, impair an institution's ability to terminate a student's residence in campus housing for any other reason than a student disciplinary matter or limit any additional rights afforded under Federal law.
- Creates a new section of KRS 164 to require a public postsecondary education institution to publish a report on student discipline every three years and establishes the required contents of the report.
- Permits a postsecondary education institution to apply to the Attorney General for an exemption when the institution maintains that required data cannot be adequately deidentified to conform to Federal Law.

This law may be cited as the Kentucky Campus Due Process Protection Act.

**\*House Bill 453** (Rep. Dixon) amends KRS 61.826, relating to video teleconferencing of public meetings per the Open Meetings Act

- Requires any public agency to provide specific information regarding where any member of the media or public may view the meeting electronically.
- Requires the identification of a primary physical location of the video teleconference where all members of the public agency who are participating may be seen and heard, if the public agency provides a physical location for the meeting, or where two or more members of the public agency are attending a video teleconference meeting from the same physical location.
- Requires all public agency members who participate in a video teleconference to remain on camera all the time business is being discussed.

**House Bill 494** (Rep. Frazier Gordon) establishes Subtitle 12 of KRS Chapter 286 and create sections thereof to make findings, defines terms and establishes licensing requirements for certain student education loan servicers.

- Establishes records requirements for student education loan servicers and requires annual and other reports by student education loan servicers.
- Requires student education loan servicers to pay an annual assessment fee.
- Prohibits student education loan servicers from engaging in abusive acts and practices and prohibit other conduct.
- Requires student education loan servicers to comply with federal and state law.
- Permits the commissioner to conduct examinations and investigations of student education loan servicers.
- Establishes requirements for conditioning, denying, suspending or revoking the license of a student education loan servicers.
- Establishes regulatory provisions relating to emergency orders, administrative complaints and appeals, and penalties.
- Amends KRS 452.005 to conform and states that provisions of the Act shall be severable.

This law may be cited as the Student Education Loan Servicing, Licensing and Protection Act of 2022.



**House Bill 607** (Rep. Koenig) amends KRS 230.550 to increase the limit on funding provided to the University of Louisville equine industry program from money wagered on live and historical horse races and provides funding to the University of Kentucky and Bluegrass Community and Technical College for their equine industry programs.

\***House Bill 663** (Rep. McCool) creates a new section of KRS Chapter 164 to require the president and chair of the governing board of each postsecondary education institution licensed or overseen by the CPE to jointly execute a signed, sworn financial disclosure statement and submit to CPE and the General Assembly by June 30 of each year. Authorizes CPE to investigate if an institution fails to provide a statement to designated recipients.

**House Bill 668** (Rep. DuPlessis) amends KRS 61.5991 to exempt contracts for non-core services provided by an independent contractor used by a Kentucky Employees Retirement System (KERS) quasi-governmental employer (including all KERS participating comprehensive universities and KCTCS) from the reporting requirements established by HB 8 during the 2021 Regular Session to determine recommendations for KERS general fund subsidies.

- Deletes provisions that prohibit the systems from requiring employers to pay back contributions if they find KERS quasi-governmental employers have failed to properly report employees eligible for retirement coverage.
- Requires the system to perform audits on KERS quasi-governmental employers to ensure eligible employees are being reported to and contributions are being paid to the system and provide that if any agency does not comply with the audits, then the employer shall lose eligibility for future subsidies.
- Defines "non-core services independent contractor".
- Amends KRS 61.565 to require KERS to provide employers with the member data provided to the actuary and the data the actuary produced as it relates to prorating liabilities to each employer under HB 8 passed during the 2021 Regular Session.

This law is retroactive to July 1, 2021 and includes an emergency clause.

**NOTE:**

*The Attorney General has not yet opined on "the effective date of legislation passed by the 2022 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly, except for general appropriation measures and those containing emergency or delayed effective date provisions. However, the effective date will be 90 full days after final adjournment on April 14, 2022."*

*An asterisk (\*) next to a bill denotes action required by CPE.*

**KY COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION**

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**TITLE:** Review of HB 250 - Kentucky State University

**DESCRIPTION:** Staff will provide a review of the impact of HB 250 (2022, RS).

**PRESENTER:** Travis Powell, CPE's Vice President and General Counsel

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

HB 250, an act relating to Kentucky State University (KSU), making an appropriation therefor, and declaring an emergency, was signed on April 8, 2022. The following provides a review of its actions and how they impact KSU and the KY Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE).

**RESPONSIBILITIES DESIGNATED TO KSU**

- Create a new Financial Exigency Policy, by May 15, 2022. A copy must be provided to CPE and LRC by June 1, 2022
- Provide monthly report of finances to the CPE
- Pause the presidential search process until April 15, 2023
- Search for interim president to replace current interim, who can serve until replaced.
- In consultation with CPE, conduct review of all departments and academic programs then eliminate or change department or program. (1 year from effective date of Act)
- In consultation with CPE, develop process to review all faculty and staff performance – (3 months from effective date of Act)
- In consultation with CPE, conduct a performance review of all faculty and staff (1 year from effective date of Act). If there is not enough info on tenured faculty, this process can be delayed but not past April 1, 2024. Tenured faculty must undergo an addition post tenure review by June 2027.
- Provide updates to Legislative Committees progress of Management and Improvement Plan at least 4 times a year. (The President and a member of the board must be present.)

- Submit request for \$23 million with supporting documentation and make recommendations to CPE for further investigation, if conduct has risen to level of a crime.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES DESIGNATED TO CPE**

- Approve KSU expenditures greater than \$5,000, until CPE reports to Governor and LRC that finances are stable
- Provide the format of the KSU Monthly Finance Report
- Provide a monthly update on financial status of KSU to Governor and LRC, until CPE reports to Governor and LRC that finances are stable
- Adopt KSU Management and Improvement Plan by November 1, 2022
- Contract with a third party for recommendations on governance and operational structure and evaluate campus performance
- Report progress to Interim Joint Committee on Education on June 1 and November 1 of each year
- Conduct a 3-year performance analysis based on the Management and Improvement Plan to the Interim Joint Committee on Education, the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue, and the Auditor of Public Accounts, due November 1, 2025
- Disburse \$23 million and determine what request and supporting documentation should be required before disbursement
- Make recommendations to the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue for repayment of KSU loan, by November 1, 2025
- Produce annual report on KSU loan repayment, begin November 1, 2026 then each year thereafter until loan is repaid.
- Distribute \$5 million in FY 23 and \$10 million in FY 24 to KSU when goals and benchmarks are met in accordance with the Management and Improvement Plan.

1 AN ACT relating to Kentucky State University, making an appropriation therefor,  
2 and declaring an emergency.

3 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

4 ➔Section 1. (1) The General Assembly hereby finds a significant lack of  
5 efficiency and effectiveness in the instructional and operational performance of Kentucky  
6 State University and determines that immediate appropriate corrective action is warranted  
7 as follows:

8 (a) Whereas Kentucky State University does not have sufficient resources or  
9 reserves to continue operating as currently structured, the General Assembly declares that  
10 a state of financial exigency exists at Kentucky State University from the effective date of  
11 this Act until June 30, 2023. Notwithstanding any existing Kentucky State University  
12 policies relating to financial exigency, the Kentucky State University board of regents  
13 shall execute a new financial exigency policy by May 15, 2022, that will expedite the  
14 restructuring of university operations. The board of regents shall provide a copy of the  
15 new exigency policy to the Council on Postsecondary Education and the director of the  
16 Legislative Research Commission by June 1, 2022;

17 (b) In accordance with KRS 164.350 and 164.365, the Kentucky State University  
18 board of regents has the authority to terminate employment of any university employee,  
19 including tenured employees, upon 30 days' notice in accordance with the university's  
20 personnel policies and subject to the recommendation of the president or acting president,  
21 or in the case of the termination of the president or acting president, the recommendation  
22 of the Council on Postsecondary Education;

23 (c) The Council on Postsecondary Education shall approve any Kentucky State  
24 University expenditure greater than \$5,000, and the university shall provide a monthly  
25 report of university finances to the council in the format requested by the council. The  
26 council shall provide a monthly update on the financial status of the university to the  
27 Governor and the Legislative Research Commission. The financial oversight granted to

1 the council under this paragraph shall continue until the council reports to the Governor  
2 and the Legislative Research Commission that the university's finances are stable;

3 (d) The Kentucky State University board of regents shall cease its search to fill  
4 the university's presidential vacancy until April 15, 2023. Upon the effective date of this  
5 Act, the board shall conduct a search for an interim president who has experience in  
6 university governance with specific emphasis placed on turnaround experience to replace  
7 the current interim president, who may serve until replaced;

8 (e) Within one year of the effective date of this Act, the Kentucky State  
9 University board of regents, in consultation with the Council on Postsecondary  
10 Education, shall conduct a thorough review of all university departments and academic  
11 programs for long-term viability, financial stability, alignment with the university's  
12 mission, and other criteria determined by the board and the council. In accordance with  
13 accreditation requirements, the board shall eliminate or make changes to any department  
14 or program found to be ineffective, inconsistent with the university's mission, or  
15 otherwise not meeting the review criteria;

16 (f) Kentucky State University faculty and staff employed in departments and  
17 programs closed under paragraph (e) of this subsection shall be terminated in accordance  
18 with the university's personnel policies but shall not be prohibited from applying for other  
19 positions available at the university;

20 (g) 1. Within three months of the effective date of this Act, the Kentucky State  
21 University board of regents, in consultation with the Council on Postsecondary  
22 Education, shall develop a process to review all faculty and staff performance, including a  
23 post-tenure review for tenured faculty as described in subparagraph 2. of this paragraph.  
24 The process shall ensure a consistently high level of employee performance and shall  
25 include but not be limited to assessments by peers, students, and administrators. In  
26 addition to evaluating an employee's growth, accomplishments, and skills, the process  
27 shall be used to identify deficiencies and ineffectiveness and redirect employee efforts to

1 improve or increase productivity. The process shall be used as a basis for decisions on  
2 continued employment, promotion, salary increases, tenure, and maintenance of tenure;

3 2. In addition to the requirements described in subparagraph 1. of this paragraph,  
4 the review process for tenured faculty shall include an evaluation of teaching  
5 effectiveness, research body of work, overall commitment to the mission of the  
6 university, and other criteria determined by the board and the council;

7 (h) 1. Within one year of the effective date of this Act, the Kentucky State  
8 University board of regents, in consultation with the Council on Postsecondary  
9 Education, shall conduct a performance review of all faculty and staff as described in  
10 paragraph (g) of this section, except as provided in subparagraph 2. of this paragraph, and  
11 as a result, determine any board action warranted regarding termination of employees,  
12 abolishment of positions, and adjustment of salaries. Any employee who fails to meet the  
13 criteria established by the board, including tenured faculty, shall be terminated in  
14 accordance with the university's personnel policies;

15 2. If there is not a sufficient body of evidence for a tenured faculty member to  
16 undergo the review required under subparagraph 1. of this paragraph, as determined by  
17 criteria established by the board in consultation with the council, the review shall be  
18 delayed and the faculty member shall be advised of the deficiencies in the body of  
19 evidence causing the delay. The review shall take place by April 1, 2024; and

20 (i) All tenured faculty shall undergo an additional post-tenure review as  
21 described in paragraph (g) of this section by June 30, 2027.

22 (2) Any reasonable costs incurred by Kentucky State University and approved by  
23 the Council on Postsecondary Education related to, or resulting from, implementing  
24 personnel actions, including but not limited to terminations, separation incentives,  
25 settlements, and judgments shall be reported by the council to the General Assembly for  
26 consideration in determining future budget appropriations to the university.

27 ➔Section 2. (1) The Council on Postsecondary Education shall create and

1 oversee a management improvement plan for Kentucky State University designed to  
2 assist with organizational and financial stability that includes but is not limited to the  
3 following areas:

4 (a) A comprehensive cataloging and review of university policies and procedures  
5 to ensure efficiency and compliance with state and federal law;

6 (b) Guidelines for salary ranges and benefits for all faculty, staff, and  
7 administrators;

8 (c) Mandatory board member training and development, including but not limited  
9 to financial oversight and effective committee structure;

10 (d) Academic program offerings, course offerings, and faculty productivity  
11 guidelines;

12 (e) Accounting and fiscal reporting systems, collections, budget, and internal  
13 controls over expenditures and financial reporting;

14 (f) Student success and enrollment management strategies;

15 (g) Student academic progress and results; and

16 (h) The development of an online curriculum with the intent of offering  
17 Bachelor's and Master's degrees online.

18 (2) The plan shall include:

19 (a) Specific, measurable goals, objectives, and benchmarks for each of the  
20 improvement areas;

21 (b) A process for monitoring and evaluating Kentucky State University's progress  
22 toward meeting the goals, objectives, and benchmarks; and

23 (c) The terms and conditions for the termination of the plan.

24 (3) The plan shall include, as determined by the council, on-site council or third-  
25 party staff in a management, advisory, or administrative capacity to provide assistance to  
26 Kentucky State University in implementing the plan.

27 (4) The Kentucky State University board of regents shall fully cooperate and

1 timely consult with the council in developing and implementing the plan and shall  
2 provide all information and documentation requested by the council in overseeing the  
3 plan.

4 (5) The council shall submit the plan to the Legislative Research Commission by  
5 November 1, 2022. Any revisions to the plan shall be submitted to the Commission after  
6 adoption.

7 (6) The council shall contract with an independent third party to make  
8 recommendations on the university's governance and operational structure and evaluate  
9 the university's performance throughout the period of the council's oversight.

10 (7) By June 1 and November 1, 2022, and by June 1 and November 1 of each year  
11 thereafter the plan is in effect, the council shall provide reports to the Interim Joint  
12 Committee on Education detailing the status of the development, implementation, and  
13 results of the plan.

14 (8) During Fiscal Years 2022-2023, 2023-2024, and 2024-2025, the Kentucky  
15 State University president and a member of the Kentucky State University board of  
16 regents shall provide a combined total of at least four updates each year on the progress of  
17 the management improvement plan and the investigation of the actions that led to the  
18 financial shortfall described in Section 3 of this Act to one or more of the following  
19 committees: the Budget Review Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education, the Interim  
20 Joint Budget Review Subcommittee on Education, the Interim Joint Committee on  
21 Appropriations and Revenue, or the Interim Joint Committee on Education.

22 (9) By November 1, 2025, the council shall provide a three-year performance  
23 analysis of Kentucky State University based on the management improvement plan to the  
24 Interim Joint Committee on Education, the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations  
25 and Revenue, and the State Auditor of Public Accounts. The council shall provide  
26 recommendations for a transition plan to a new governance and operational structure for  
27 the institution for consideration by the General Assembly if the analysis finds a



1 continuing significant lack of efficiency and effectiveness in the governance and  
2 administration of Kentucky State University. Upon the recommendation of the council,  
3 the General Assembly may extend the council's involvement with and oversight of the  
4 university beyond 2025.

5       ➔Section 3. (1) There is hereby appropriated to the Council on  
6 Postsecondary Education General Fund moneys in the amount of \$23,000,000 in fiscal  
7 year 2021-2022 to address financial instability at Kentucky State University, including a  
8 cash shortfall due to prior year deficits and a projected financial structural imbalance in  
9 fiscal year 2021-2022. Prior to receiving any disbursement of the funds from the council,  
10 the university shall submit a request with supporting documentation required by the  
11 council for the council's review and approval and make recommendations for further  
12 investigations necessary, if any conduct has risen to the level of a crime. The total  
13 disbursed to Kentucky State University shall be a non-interest bearing loan to be repaid  
14 by university. Funds not disbursed to the university shall be deposited to the loan  
15 repayment trust fund created in Section 4 of this Act.

16       (2) By November 1, 2025, the Council on Postsecondary Education shall make  
17 recommendations to the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue for  
18 consideration by the General Assembly during the 2026 Regular Session for the terms  
19 and schedule for repayment of the loan beginning in fiscal year 2026-2027 based on  
20 ongoing monitoring of Kentucky State University's financial status.

21       (3) The council shall provide an annual report to the Interim Joint Committee on  
22 Appropriations and Revenue detailing the status of the Kentucky State University loan by  
23 November 1, 2026, and by November 1 each year thereafter for as long as the loan is in  
24 effect.

25       ➔Section 4. (1) The Kentucky State University loan repayment trust fund is  
26 hereby created as a trust fund in the State Treasury to be administered by the Council on  
27 Postsecondary Education for the purpose of receiving loan payments as described in

1 Section 3 of this Act.

2 (2) The trust fund shall consist of amounts repaid by Kentucky State University  
3 and any amounts not disbursed to the university as described in Section 3 of this Act.

4 (3) The balance in the trust fund shall be invested as provided in KRS 42.500(9).  
5 Income earned from the investments shall be credited to the trust fund.

6 (4) Notwithstanding KRS 45.229, any fund balance at the close of the fiscal year  
7 shall not lapse but shall be carried forward to the next fiscal year. All receipts in the fund  
8 shall remain in the fund until appropriated by the General Assembly.

9 ➔Section 5. There is hereby appropriated to the Council on Postsecondary  
10 Education General Fund moneys in the amount of \$5,000,000 in fiscal year 2022-2023  
11 and \$10,000,000 in fiscal year 2023-2024 for the purposes of distributing funds to  
12 Kentucky State University, as determined by the council, as goals and benchmarks are  
13 met by the university in accordance with the management improvement plan established  
14 in Section 2 of this Act. Nothing in this section shall be considered as a performance fund  
15 distribution under KRS 164.092, and the university shall be included in the  
16 comprehensive funding model as described in KRS 164.092.

17 ➔Section 6. There is hereby appropriated to the Council on Postsecondary  
18 Education General Fund moneys in the amount of \$1,500,000 in fiscal year 2022-2023  
19 for the costs incurred by the council in carrying out its duties described in Sections 1 to 3  
20 of this Act.

21 ➔Section 7. Whereas the financial health and success of Kentucky State  
22 University, a comprehensive, historically Black land-grant university, is vital to the well-  
23 being of Kentucky's postsecondary education system and the students it serves, an  
24 emergency is declared to exist, and this Act takes effect upon its passage and approval by  
25 the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming a law.

**TITLE:** KSU Expenditure Approval Policy

**DESCRIPTION:** Staff recommend the Council approve the Expenditure Approval Policy for Kentucky State University.

**PRESENTER:** Travis Powell, CPE's Vice President and General Counsel

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### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

As part of the responsibilities granted to the Council related to Kentucky State Universities (KSU) in HB 250 (2022), Section 1.(1)(c) of states the following:

The Council on Postsecondary Education shall approve any Kentucky State University expenditure greater than \$5,000, and the university shall provide a monthly report of university finances to the council in the format requested by the council. The council shall provide a monthly update on the financial status of the university to the Governor and the Legislative Research Commission. The financial oversight granted to the council under this paragraph shall continue until the council reports to the Governor and the Legislative Research Commission that the university's finances are stable;

Council staff recommend the approval of the proposed policy in order to set the process for approving KSU expenditures in accordance with the enacted legislation.



# Kentucky State University Expenditure Approval Policy

HB 250 (2022)

*Tentative Approval Date: April 15, 2022*

Effective Date: April 15, 2022

## Purpose

As part of the responsibilities granted to the Council related to Kentucky State Universities (KSU) in [HB 250 \(2022\)](#), Section 1.(1)(c) of states the following:

The Council on Postsecondary Education shall approve any Kentucky State University expenditure greater than \$5,000, and the university shall provide a monthly report of university finances to the council in the format requested by the council. The council shall provide a monthly update on the financial status of the university to the Governor and the Legislative Research Commission. The financial oversight granted to the council under this paragraph shall continue until the council reports to the Governor and the Legislative Research Commission that the university's finances are stable;

## Policy

KSU shall submit request for any expenditure of funds over \$5000 to Council staff at a designated email account for review and approval. Each request shall include the following information and shall be signed by both the Chief Financial Officer and President of the institution.

1. Brief Description and Justification of Requested Expenditure
2. Originating Department
3. Programmatic Contact (with contact information)
4. Budget Unit
5. Amount Remaining in Budget Unit after Purchase
6. Funding Source
7. Procurement Method (if applicable)
8. Payment Due Date (if applicable)
9. Vendor (if applicable)
10. Contract Number (if applicable)
11. Payment Method
12. Supporting Documentation (if applicable)
13. Board of Regents Approval Date (if applicable)

All contracts and personnel actions must be approved by the KSU Board of Regents or designated Committee before resulting expenditures will be approved. Contracts and personnel obligations occurring before the effective date of HB 250, April 8, 2022, will be considered approved by the KSU Board of Regents.

CPE staff may will contact KSU with any questions or clarifications regarding the request. Requests may be revised or withdrawn at any time.

If the request is denied, CPE staff will outline the deficiencies in the request and KSU may resubmit upon correction.

If the request is approved, CPE staff will notify the KSU CFO and provide authorization for the expenditure in KSU's accounting system.

Final approval or denial will be provided at the Vice Presidential or Presidential level at CPE.

## Reporting

CPE shall provide monthly reports of approved expenditures of KSU to the CPE Executive Committee on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month following the close of the prior month. A report of KSU's financial status shall also be provided monthly to the CPE Executive Committee, the Governor, and the Legislative Research Commission.

**TITLE:** Kentucky State University Funding Disbursement Request

**RECOMMENDATION:** Council staff recommend approval of KSU's request for disbursement of \$17.5 million to address the current year (FY 2022) shortfall through June 15, 2022.

**PRESENTERS:** Travis Powell, Vice President and General Counsel, CPE  
Greg Rush, Senior Fellow, CPE

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### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Section 3 of HB 250, enacted April 8, 2022, provide CPE with the following directive in relation to its oversight of Kentucky State University (KSU):

There is hereby appropriated to the Council on Postsecondary Education General Fund moneys in the amount of \$23,000,000 in fiscal year 2021-2022 to address financial instability at Kentucky State University, including a cash shortfall due to prior year deficits and a projected financial structural imbalance in fiscal year 2021-2022. Prior to receiving any disbursement of the funds from the council, the university shall submit a request with supporting documentation required by the council for the council's review and approval and make recommendations for further investigations necessary, if any conduct has risen to the level of a crime. The total disbursed to Kentucky State University shall be a non-interest bearing loan to be repaid by university. Funds not disbursed to the university shall be deposited to the loan repayment trust fund created in Section 4 of this Act.

In accordance with this directive, attached is a letter from KSU CFO and Vice President of Finance and Administration Gerald D. Shields requesting disbursement of \$17.5 million to KSU to meet existing obligations and carry the institution through to June 15, 2022. CPE Senior Fellow Greg Rush has reviewed the supporting documentation and accounting information in the attached and has verified their accuracy. Amounts that required projection or estimation have been made with the most recent and verifiable information available. Amounts request are also supported by the [KSU Financial Assessment](#) completed by CPE in November 2021.

Council staff recommend approval of KSU's request for disbursement of \$17.5 million to address the current year (FY 2022) shortfall through June 15, 2022. Disbursements shall be made not to exceed the approved amount and for the exact amounts owed in each category identified in the letter.

Before the next Council meeting scheduled June 17, 2022, CPE staff will work with KSU staff and the KSU Board of Regents to construct a final funding request for FY 2022. The time will be used to determine final payroll amounts, evaluate cash flow needs for transition from FY 2022 to 2023, year-end close out expenses, and funding needed for items to be completed in FY 2022 per HB 250.





**Finance and Administration**  
Academic Services #202 | 400 East Main Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601 | (502) 597-6343  
**KYSU.EDU**

April 12, 2022

Dr. Aaron Thompson  
President  
Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education  
100 Airport Road  
Frankfort, KY 40601

*Re: Request for Disbursement*

Dear Dr. Thompson:

I am submitting this request to the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) to disburse \$17.5 million to Kentucky State University (University) to carry the University through the months of April, May, and half of June 2022. As justification for this request, I would provide the following information on behalf of the University:

In the Fall of 2021, CPE conducted a financial review of the University. As a result of that review, CPE recommended in a November 2021 report that the University “request \$23 million from the General Assembly to cover the fiscal year 2021-22 projected cash shortfall plus \$1 million annually in the 2022-24 biennium for strategic initiatives.” (A copy of that report is attached.) In accordance with recommendation contained in that report, the University made this request to the General Assembly and the General Assembly responded with House Bill 250 (the bill).

On April 8, 2022, the Governor signed HB 250 into law stating in pertinent part:

There is hereby appropriated to the Council on Postsecondary Education General Fund moneys in the amount of \$23,000,000 in fiscal year 2021-2022 to address financial instability at Kentucky State University, including a cash shortfall due to prior year deficits and a projected financial structural imbalance in fiscal year 2021-2022. Prior to receiving any disbursement of the funds from the council, the university shall submit a request with supporting documentation required by the council for the council's review and approval and make recommendations for further investigations necessary, if any conduct has risen to the level of a crime.

As required by the bill, the University now submits this request to CPE for the disbursement of \$17.5 million. As the basis for this \$17.5, the University states:

Repay Fifth Third for the Revenue Anticipation Note	\$ 2.5 million
April Cash Deficiency	\$ 1 million
Repay State Budget Office for capital construction projects	\$ 5 million
Replenish asset preservation fund	\$ 1.6 million
Banner Training and Personnel Support	\$ 100,000
Continue Audit Support for FY 2021 and preparation for FY 2022	\$ 500,000
Projected payroll and operating expenses between April 15, 2022 and June 15, 2022	\$ 6.8 million
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$17.5 million</b>

As a final note, the University states that, in its review of the University’s financial records, the University has uncovered excessive spending, but has not uncovered any criminal activity. As part of on-going litigation, outside counsel is engaging a team of forensic accountants to investigate financial activities during the tenure of Dr. Brown. The University will also work with the Auditor of Public Accounts or a firm of the APA’s choosing to conduct a more in-depth review of the University’s finances. If criminal activity is discovered the University will report it to the appropriate law enforcement agency and CPE.

As always, KSU appreciates CPE’s diligent oversight and continued support of Kentucky State University. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further concerns or questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Shields". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Gerald D. Shields, Ph.D. / CFO  
Vice President of Finance and Administration

Cc: Clara Ross Stamps  
Lisa K. Lang  
Gregory M. Rush  
Travis Powell

Encl: CURRENT FINANCIAL STATUS OF KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY: An Assessment  
Conducted by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education November 2021

**TITLE:** Report from the Academic and Strategic Initiatives (ASI) Committee

**DESCRIPTION:** The following is a summary of the Committee's March 30, 2022, meeting.

**PRESENTER:** Lori Harper, Chair of ASI Committee

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The Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee met on March 30, 2022. Below is a summary of their work.

- Reviewed and approved two new academic programs from the University of Louisville and one new academic program from Western Kentucky University. Both will be presented for final approval at the Council meeting.
- Received an update on the Higher Education Matters Campaign Launch, which will be supplemented on during the April 15 meeting. The campaign goals are to improve public understanding that higher education is key to greater opportunity and economic growth and to promote college-going for traditional and adult students. The initiative supports Value priority of the 2022-30 Statewide Strategic Agenda.
- Received an update on the new Kentucky Advising Academy (KAA), which supports postsecondary advising efforts in the state by providing professional learning opportunities for school counselors, Family Resource/Youth Service Center Coordinators and professional educators in postsecondary advising roles. Services provided by the academy aim to build knowledge, capacity, and community among advising practitioners.
- Received an update on the implementation steps associated with the 2022-30 Statewide Strategic Agenda for Postsecondary Education. Since its approval at the November 5, 2021 Council meeting, staff have finalized and formally distributed the publication, executed a virtual launch event on February 9, 2022, finalized the 2022-24 campus-level strategies and performance targets and finalized the 2022-24 state-level action plan for each objective.

Further it was communicated, the Council and campuses will share communication of progress toward the goals of the strategic agenda through the following methods:

- Annual Progress Report
- Dedicated Strategic Agenda Webpage (CPE)
- Key performance indicators dashboard (CPE)
- Annual presentations from campus presidents/leadership (campuses)
- Priority-focused updates/discussions with Council during quarterly work sessions (CPE/campuses)

The ASI Committee's next meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2022.

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*The supporting materials for Committee meetings and YouTube replay link can be found on the Council Meetings Records Archive webpage at: <http://cpe.ky.gov/aboutus/records/index.html>.*

**TITLE:** Proposed New Academic Programs

**DESCRIPTION:** The Academic & Strategic Initiatives (ASI) Committee recommends the Council approve the proposed New Academic Programs from Northern Kentucky University and the University of Louisville.

**PRESENTER:** Lori Harper, Chair of the ASI Committee

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### **COMMITTEE REVIEW & APPROVAL**

The ASI Committee reviewed and approved the proposed New Academic Programs from Western Kentucky University and the University of Louisville at its March 30, 2022, meeting.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

KRS 164.020 (15) empowers the Council on Postsecondary Education to define and approve the offering of all postsecondary education technical, associate, baccalaureate, graduate, and professional degree, certificate, or diploma programs in the public postsecondary education institutions.

Council staff has reviewed the proposed programs and recommends approval by the board. The university-submitted documentation has been included in your agenda packets for review.

### **PROGRAMS PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL**

#### Western Kentucky University

- M.S., Cybersecurity (CIP 43.0404)

#### University of Louisville

- M.S., Accountancy and Analytics (CIP 52.1301)
- Ed.S., Curriculum and Instructions (CIP 13.0301)

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SUMMARY

**Institution:** University of Louisville  
**Program Name:** Curriculum and Instructions  
**Degree Destination:** EDUCATION SPECIALIST (EDS)  
**Degree Level:** Specialist

**CIP Code:** 13.0301  
**Credit Hours:** 30  
**Institutional Board Approval Date:** 10/28/2021  
**Implementation Date:** 5/01/2023

### Program Description

The Education Specialist (Ed.S.) program in Curriculum and Instruction will prepare classroom teachers to become curriculum and instruction specialists in a particular area of teaching (e.g. Reading Specialist). Potential candidates for the degree are teachers who have completed a master's degree in education or a related field and are interested in continuing their educational pursuits, but not interested in pursuing a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction. The program will provide graduates with expertise needed for strong instructional leadership in schools. This includes extensive knowledge of curriculum, leadership and coaching, data analysis and research methods, and one area of expertise within teaching. The program competencies are aligned to the Kentucky Teacher Performance Standards, focused on advanced practice. This two-year program will offer online, face-to-face, and hybrid course options.

### Connection to Other Programs

The target populations for the proposed program are teachers in Jefferson County Public Schools and the Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative school districts. Morehead State University and Northern Kentucky University, which also have Ed.S. programs, are located outside these targeted districts. Unlike other programs, the proposed program includes a focus in data analysis and research methods to support data driven decision-making.

### Program Demand

Through school district collaboration, district leaders communicated the need to build instructional leadership capacity. Between 2015 and 2020, there were approximately 50 inquiries regarding the possibility of pursuing an advanced degree along with a Rank I certification in curriculum and instruction. Teachers enrolled in non-degree programs (endorsement and/or Rank 1) expressed that they would prefer an education specialist degree (Ed.S) to accompany the Rank 1 certification.

Initial estimates of enrollment are:

Year 1 – 10  
Year 2 – 15  
Year 3 – 20  
Year 4 – 20  
Year 5 – 20

### Employment Demand

The program is designed for students already in the workforce. These students either wish to make more money doing the same job or wish to move into a non-administrator leadership position (e.g., curriculum specialist, literacy specialist, instructional coach, state mathematics specialist, etc.). Elementary and Secondary Teachers are two of the top 10 "occupations with the most openings" that require a bachelor's degree according to Kystats.gov Occupational Outlook 2016-2026. As more people enter teaching, more will also pursue advanced degrees in order to make a higher salary.

## **Budget**

The University of Louisville estimates that two part-time instructors will be needed annually to teach two different courses. The estimated cost of an adjunct instructor, including their stipend is \$3,864.00 per course. An additional \$3,864.00 is estimated for release time for a program coordinator to cover an additional part-time instructor to over a course they would otherwise be teaching. No additional expenses are budgeted in the first two years, as the other courses in the program are already offered regularly and are small courses, with room for an additional 5 to 10 students. The third through fifth years, two additional courses have been budgeted to account for growth in the core courses.

Student tuition income projections are based on students completing 50% of their program (15 hours) each year of this two-year program at the approved reduced tuition rate for graduate, non-Ph.D. programs in teacher education of \$542.00 per credit hour.

**Projected Revenue over Next Five Years (\$): \$362,840.00**

**Projected Expenses over Next Five Years (\$): \$57,965.00**



## PROPOSED PROGRAM SUMMARY

**Institution:** University of Louisville  
**Program Name:** Master of Science in Accountancy and Analytics  
**Degree Destination:** MASTER OF SCIENCE  
**Degree Level:** Master's

**CIP Code:** 52.1301  
**Credit Hours:** 34  
**Institutional Board Approval Date:** 12/16/2021  
**Implementation Date:** 8/01/2022

### **Program Description**

The proposed program will replace the current Master of Accountancy degree program. The program aligns with the needs for accounting and business analytics talent in the region. The program will require students to complete 34 credit hours of graduate course work, with three credit hours offered online. This cohort-based program will utilize eight-week compressed courses and will require three semesters to complete.

The program will equip graduates with technical accounting knowledge of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and General Accepted Auditing Standards, prepare graduates to be Certified Public Accountants, and offer a programmatic understanding of the results of data effectively in terms of data visualization and data storytelling.

### **Connection to Other Programs**

This proposed program uses the current accountancy content of the Master of Accountancy degree program, which already consist of the College of Business graduate certificate in Managerial Analytics. Graduating students will have the option to apply for a graduate certificate in analytics as well as the master's degree.

The University of Kentucky, Northern Kentucky University and Western Kentucky University also have a Master of Accountancy or Master of Science in Accounting programs, but the University of Louisville's focus on data analytics makes it distinctive.

### **Program Demand**

By combining accountancy knowledge with the latest high-demand business knowledge concerning business analytics, this program is designed to meet the changing needs of prospective students. In addition, the College of Business intends to seek STEM status from the federal government. Achieving STEM status should allow for international students to get visas for taking this program when they cannot get visas for non-STEM eligible programs.

Initial estimates of enrollment are:

Year 1 – 35  
Year 2 – 35  
Year 3 – 40  
Year 4 – 40  
Year 5 – 45

### **Employment Demand**

Data gathered from the Gray & Associates Program Evaluation System, as well as data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook and Occupational Employment Statistics and the Projections Managing Partnership's State Occupational Projections (2018-2028) show that, on average, there are 355 job openings in this field per year within a 30 miles radius of Louisville. With this degree, graduates can find jobs in public and private accounting, auditing, and other financial services. The data shows that this is an expected national employer demand growth of 0.5% to 0.8% in each of these areas.

### **Budget**

The UofL graduate program in accountancy has matriculated between 15 and 20 students per year over the prior decade. The current enrollment is 30 students. The new MSAA program is expected to lead to a doubling of enrollments, especially when the program achieves STEM status, which should open the door for international students to get visas for taking this program. Even with this increase in enrollment, there will not be a need for new faculty to staff the program at this time.

**Projected Revenue over Next Five Years (\$): \$3,656,250.00**

**Projected Expenses over Next Five Years (\$): \$2,592,397.00**

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SUMMARY

**Institution:** Western Kentucky University  
**Program Name:** Cybersecurity Data Analytics  
**Degree Destination:** MASTER OF SCIENCE  
**Degree Level:** Master's

**CIP Code:** 43.0404

**Credit Hours:** 30

**Institutional Board Approval Date:** 3/4/2022

**Implementation Date:** 8/15/2022

### **Program Description**

This proposed program will focus on the study of cybersecurity defenses using data analytics to support the principles of data confidentiality, integrity, and availability. This program will combine cybersecurity and data analytics to provide students with the skills to prevent and detect cybersecurity attacks. Students will learn to defend proactively and continuously improve the enterprise's security with an emphasis on using data analytics. Students will also learn about the latest techniques in data management, data mining models, and data visualization. Additionally, cybersecurity policies and compliance issues from an information assurance and risk management perspective will be taught. The program will be delivered entirely online to meet the access demand of working adults who are the primary audience for this program.

Concentrations in Health Care Administration, Organizational Communication, and Local Government Administrations will allow students to pursue careers in various fields or enhance their current employment.

### **Connection to Other Programs**

At Western Kentucky University, the core courses for this proposed program were initially offered in fall 2020 in the MBA program as concentrations in Data Analytics and Cybersecurity Data Analytics.

Eastern Kentucky University has a master's degree in digital forensics and cybersecurity that covers cybersecurity from a counterterrorism perspective but does not combine it with data analytics. EKU also has a master's program in cyber systems technology focused on wired and wireless computer network communication. Murray State University has a master's program in cybersecurity management that emphasizes teaching cybersecurity from an information technology perspective. However, WKU's proposed program is focused on data analytics and is thus unique.

### **Program Demand**

This program of study represents the intersection of cyber operations and artificial intelligence from a business perspective. Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, numerous instances of cybersecurity and data privacy issues have been highlighted in the news. The demand for cybersecurity and data privacy is expected to increase as these issues become more prevalent. One significant aspect of this program is to educate current infrastructure workers about security and threat intelligence. Security intelligence is used to assist in identifying cyber threat activities based on underground malicious and suspicious host

activity. Data is customized to enable real-time alerts and identify activity from specific users and devices within an organization, which are engaging with malicious threats. Threat intelligence involves collecting, processing, and analyzing information from internal, technical, and human sources

Currently, 35 MBA students are enrolled in the Data Analytics concentration and 8 MBA students are enrolled in the cybersecurity data analytics concentration. Also, 3 students are also enrolled in the Data Analytics certificate, which is outside the MBA program. The university expects demand and awareness for the core course to increase once allowed to advertise the graduate certificates in Fall 2021.

Based on enrollment in these concentrations and courses, initial estimates of enrollment are:

Year 1 – 10

Year 2 – 15

Year 3 – 20

Year 4 – 25

Year 5 – 30

### **Employment Demand**

Data from EMSI, a hybrid dataset derived from the US Census Bureau, Bureau of Economic Analysis, and Bureau of Labor Statics was used to analyze employment demand. This data set shows 678,068 unique job postings in the country for jobs with skill sets that include cybersecurity, cyber defense, cyber resilience, cyber threat intelligence, cyber security strategy, and cyber laws from January 2017 to March 2020.

### **Budget**

WKU currently provides the instruction for the Data Analytics and Cybersecurity Data Analytics concentrations in the MBA program. No additional faculty will be needed to offer this proposed program.

**Projected Revenue over Next Five Years (\$): \$1,274,700.00**

**Projected Expenses over Next Five Years (\$): \$203,000.00**

**KY COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION**

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**TITLE:** Higher Education Matters Campaign Launch

**DESCRIPTION:** Council staff will provide an update on the Higher Education Matters campaign and next steps.

**PRESENTERS:** Sue Patrick, Chief Communications Officer, CPE  
Terri Giltner, Chief Marketing Officer, KCTCS  
Rick Hesterberg, Vice President of University Advancement,  
Morehead State University

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**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

In partnership with the public colleges and universities, Council staff launched the Higher Education Matters campaign in February. The campaign goals are to improve public understanding that higher education is key to greater opportunity and economic growth and to promote college-going for traditional and adult students. The initiative supports the Value priority of the 2022-30 Statewide Strategic Agenda.

The campaign's website, [KYHigherEdMatters.org](https://KYHigherEdMatters.org), provides students with links to college-going resources, alumni video testimonials and campus connections. For campaign partners and ambassadors, the website offers resources and suggestions to amplify the messaging.

Two campus representatives will present their collaborative marketing efforts designed to support the messaging and broaden the reach of the #KyHigherEdMatters campaign.



## Kentucky Higher Education Matters Campaign

### Overview

The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, in partnership with the public colleges and universities, created the Higher Education Matters campaign to improve public understanding that postsecondary education is key to greater opportunity and economic growth. While media stories and surveys debate higher education's value, and as Kentucky undergraduate enrollment has declined, the campaign seeks to combat misinformation and lack of information to restore the value proposition of higher education in Kentucky.

The campaign supports the new strategic agenda for higher education, [Higher Education Matters: A Statewide Strategic Agenda for Kentucky Postsecondary Education](#). This eight-year plan, which includes input from hundreds of people from across the state, reinforces the big 60x30 goal—that 60% of working-age Kentuckians will have a college credential by 2030.

### The Need

The in-state college-going rate of high school graduates has been steadily declining. Fewer nontraditional adult students are enrolling for the first time or returning to finish a credential. If we don't get this turned around, we won't be able to reach our 60x30 goal, which is critical to providing opportunity for more Kentuckians, accelerating job creation and growing the economy.

### Goal

The goal of the campaign is to improve public understanding that postsecondary education is key to greater opportunity and economic growth and encourage high school graduates and adults to pursue college credentials.

### Target Audiences

Changemakers – Higher Education and P-12 community, State policymakers, alumni, SGA, employers, engaged public

Prospective Students – traditional and adult students and their families, including low-income, underemployed, unemployed, and underrepresented populations.



## Strategies

- Use alumni video stories and ROI data to tell the story of why higher education matters.
- Implement a paid, earned, owned and shared campaign. Social will consist of TikTok, Instagram and Facebook.
- Tap into GEAR UP Kentucky's sponsorship program to run ads statewide.
- Drive all campaign traffic to the KYHigherEdMatters.org website to connect them with video stories, resources and links to campuses.
- Engage campuses and other educational and workforce partners to amplify our messaging.
- Promote organic social media.

## Messages

The campaign is designed to speak to the people in our state who don't feel there is a place for them in higher education or who don't view it as a realistic option. We're here to tell them that it is and show them how to get there.

- College can change the trajectory of your life.
- You are capable of succeeding in college (If I did it, you can do it too!)
- There are resources available to you—counselors, financial aid, other student supports on campuses.
- College will help you advance your career.
- College has a positive return on investment. It pays—
  - In higher lifetime wages and a path to successful careers.
  - More opportunities and better health outcomes.
  - A more highly educated and productive workforce.
  - Stronger Kentucky economy.

## Partners

The campaign is an initiative of CPE in partnership with Kentucky's colleges and universities. CPE is also working with other education and workforce partners to amplify the messaging.

## Campaign Period

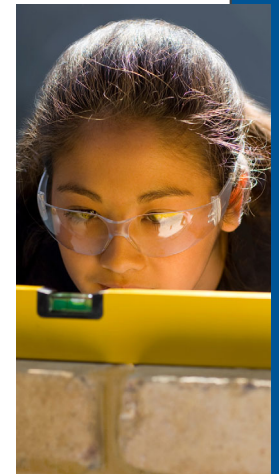
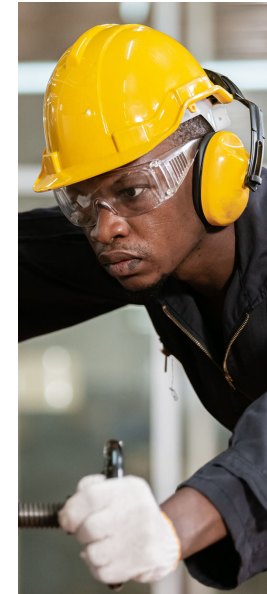
Feb. 9, 2022 – June 2022.

# Higher Education Matters Campaign Update

Sue Patrick, CPE Chief Communications Officer

Rick Hesterberg, Morehead State University Vice President of University Advancement

Terri Giltner, KCTCS Chief Marketing Officer





## THE VALUE PRIORITY

Obj. 10a.

“Conduct a **public awareness campaign** and develop communications strategies to **promote college going** and elevate the importance of higher education to Kentucky’s residents and economy.”



# TARGET AUDIENCES

## Changemakers

- Higher education and P-12 community
- State and local policymakers
- Alumni
- Student groups
- Workforce and business
- Media

## Prospective Students

- Traditional students, including low-income and underrepresented.
- Adult students, including low-income and underrepresented.



# CAMPAIGN PARTICIPANTS

## Campuses

- All public universities
- KCTCS
- AIKCU

Funding of \$350,000 came from public campuses and CPE.

## Partners

- KDE
- Prichard Committee
- KHEAA
- GEAR UP
- Education & Workforce Cabinet
- Chamber of Commerce
- Kentucky Workforce Innovation Boards



## MIDTERM EVALUATION

Paid Campaign Results (Feb. 14 thru March 31, 2022)

**Total impressions** (views) for campaign ads: **9.2 million**

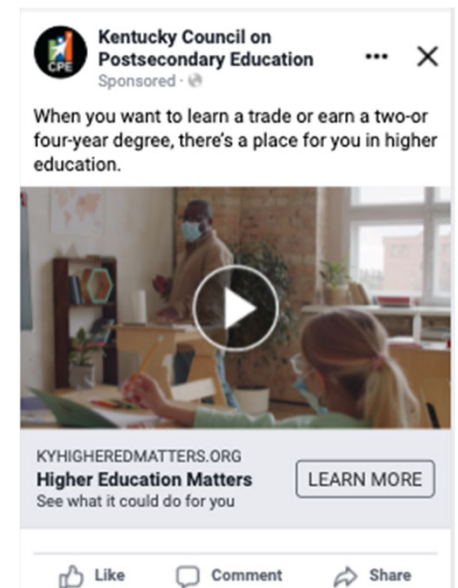
- Digital display (online ads) led all tactics with 1.5M views.

**Total ad clicks** from campaign ads: **Over 26K**

- TikTok was top performer with 13K clicks and the highest click-thru rate.
- Facebook/Instagram combined — 2M views and second highest clicks at 11,124.

**Exceeded national industry benchmarks** for education ads for **6 of 9 tactics**

- Spotify, Pandora, iHeart, Vevo (music video channel on YouTube), TikTok and OTT (streaming television services)



## MIDTERM EVALUATION, CONTINUED

Paid Campaign Results (Feb. 14 thru March 31, 2022)

**YouTube is reaching 56% of young low-income males** (between the ages of 18-24 and in the lower 50% of household incomes).

**CPE's campaign website** (<http://kyhigheredmatters.org>) has been **viewed almost 13,000 times by over 10,000 users.**

- 38% of users from TikTok.
- 34% of users from Facebook.
- 15% of users from display ads.
- 6% of users from streaming radio ads.

Final campaign evaluation due in early August.



## NEXT STEPS – NEW ITEMS

### **SPRING**

- Launch the Kentucky Higher Education Matters podcast.
- Begin planning CPE President's regional visits.
- Value op-ed by all campus presidents.

### **SUMMER/FALL**

- Investigate sources of funding to continue campaign.
- Create a sustainability plan for Years 2 and 3.
- Launch a TikTok channel for campaign.





Morehead State University  
Rick Hesterberg  
Vice President of University Advancement

# HIGHER EDUCATION *Matters*

# MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

 **Morehead State University** ✓  
1m · 🌐

Tyler Mullins is a 2014 graduate of MSU. He earned a Bachelor of Arts at MSU and double majored in graphic design and philosophy. He's worked in communications and marketing, focusing on user experience and recently started a new job as a user researcher for Twitter. He credits the career skills preparation at Morehead State with helping him on this path.

[#SOARHigher](#) [#KYHigherEdMatters](#)



👍 Like    💬 Comment    ➦ Share    

## Social Media Presence





# MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN



Morehead State University ✓

1m · 🌐



Sara and Lee Busick graduated from Morehead State in 2003. They met in college and transferred to MSU to pursue careers in art where they both earned bachelor's degrees in art. Sara also earned an MA from The Ohio State and Lee earned an MA from Indiana University. They recently launched their design company Made to Remember and have retail partnerships with the Kentucky Artisan Center, the Speed Art Museum and the Kentucky Historical Society. Made to Remember also garnered a... **See more**



👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share



## Social Media Presence



# MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN



Morehead State University ✓

1m · 🌐



Kristen Ammons – Kristen Ammons is a 2020 graduate of Morehead State University. She's currently enrolled in graduate school at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. As a student she was in the Luckey Academic Honors program and participated in an internship at MIT in 2019. She worked with other students, faculty, and staff on the MSU Space Science Center's Lunar IceCube Mission which will launch late this spring aboard Artemis I. She credits her success to her experienc... [See more](#)



👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share



## Social Media Presence



KCTCS

Terry Giltner

KCTCS Chief Marketing Officer

# HIGHER EDUCATION

*Matters*

## KCTCS - WHY THIS CAMPAIGN IS SO IMPORTANT

- KCTCS 2021/22 Prospective Student Research revealed:
  - There is no compelling push or pull for adults to enroll in college (adults 19 – 50 with Associate or less degree). They are higher education apathetic.
    - Only 24% indicated a likelihood to attend any type of postsecondary institution (trade school, community college or four-year).
    - Of this group, 47% indicated that a general lack of interest would prevent them from attending.



# KCTCS - WHY THIS CAMPAIGN IS SO IMPORTANT

- KCTCS 2021/22 Prospective Student Research revealed, cont.:
  - Reasons:
    - Happy where they are...and their jobs do not require it now or for future promotions.
    - 43% do not think higher education is a good value for their money.
  - Key concerns:
    - 80% indicated that college is too expensive and are worried about incurring student debt.
    - 75% are worried about balancing schoolwork with other responsibilities.
    - 65% say that colleges make it too hard to apply for financial aid.
    - 60% fear success/lack of preparation.



# KCTCS - WHY THIS CAMPAIGN IS SO IMPORTANT

- KCTCS 2021/22 Prospective Student Research revealed, cont.:
  - Other items of note:
    - Increased interest in obtaining a certificate.
    - Only 2 in five are aware of the technical programs available and their associated careers.



## KCTCS - DEVELOP BRANDING STANDARDS

- Create recommended logo usage branding standards for KCTCS/colleges and Higher Education Matters logo.
- Create joint Higher Education and Better Life messaging to include in communications.



## KCTCS - SOCIAL MEDIA

- Include in weekly editorial calendar:
  - Utilize recommended social media posts from CPE.
  - Tag CPE and utilize campaign #s.
- Encourage students to share videos or posts on why higher education matters to them.
- Encourage faculty/staff to become social media ambassadors by promoting their own student stories and to post a Higher Education Matters cover photo.
- Develop a Higher Education Matters editorial calendar for College Presidents social media platforms.





# KCTCS - SOCIAL MEDIA



## KCTCS - INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

- Develop a calendar to include Higher Education Matters information on all internal communication platforms.
- Create a recommended email signature that includes Higher Education Matters and college branding.
- Utilize internal and external signage to promote Higher Education Matters logo/messaging – plasma screens, digital signs



## KCTCS - WEBSITE

- Incorporate Higher Education Pays logo where appropriate on both KCTCS and college websites. Link to campaign website.
- Include messaging where appropriate on admissions pages.
- Feature logo on student stories where appropriate.



# KCTCS - WEBSITE

Stay healthy. Stay informed. Find information, resources, and updates on how we're handling COVID-19.

[MYPATH](#) [JOB SEEKERS](#) [WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS](#) [GIVING](#) [DIRECTORY](#) [QUICK LINKS](#) ▾

[REQUEST INFORMATION](#) [CUSTOM VIEWBOOK](#) [APPLY](#)



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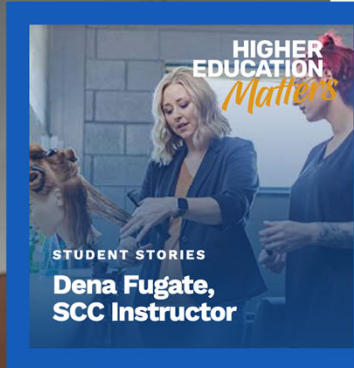
[Admissions](#)

[Affording College](#)

## Never Underestimate You

[Request Information](#)

[More Ways to Get Started](#) ▾



## KCTCS - RECRUITMENT/OUTREACH

- Incorporate logo messaging on viewbooks and other recruitment materials.
- Utilize messaging when appropriate in all outreach materials/activities – CRM campaigns, direct mail, etc.
- Include logo/messaging in RFI landing pages.



## KCTCS - PUBLIC RELATIONS

- Incorporate messaging, when possible, in paid public relations efforts:
  - Lane Report.
  - Other.
- Change news release boilerplates to incorporate Higher Education Matters.
- Incorporate talking points and messaging into College Presidents presentations at community events, etc.
- Work with CPE to co-host public relations events on campuses.



## KCTCS - PAID MEDIA

- Incorporate logo and messaging, when possible, in paid advertising.
  - Place logo on videos.
  - Place logo/messaging on landing pages.
  - Incorporate messaging, when possible, into copy.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN

<http://kyhighereducationmatters.org>

JOIN THE MOVEMENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

#KYHigherEdMatters

CONTACT US

Sue.Patrick@ky.gov

# HIGHER EDUCATION

# Matters



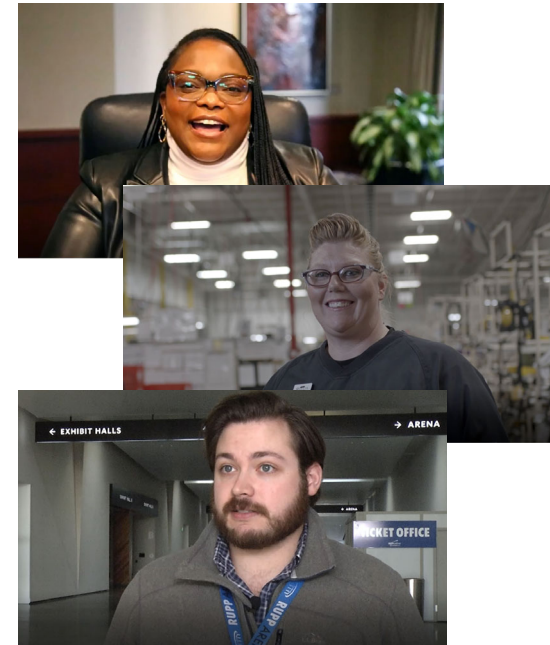
## PROGRESS TO DATE

Launched campaign during a webinar with key leaders.

- Main campaign video for advertising.
- Ads on Kentucky Sports Radio and digital radio.
- Digital display ads, digital ads on streaming services.
- Facebook, Instagram & TikTok.
- Campus-provided alumni videos on TikTok, Facebook and Instagram.
- Statewide TV ads and radio ads through GEAR UP.


### Other assets:

- Campaign website (<http://kyhigheredmatters.org>).
- Marketing toolkit.
- Rebranded all CPE templates, website and social media.




## PROGRESS TO DATE

- Spearheaded statewide conversations with campuses & partners to support the campaign.
- Launched a campaign update e-blast to partners.
- Distributed ROI infographics and value messaging weekly via social media, President's messages and monthly newsletter.



**HIGHER EDUCATION Matters** Campaign Updates

March 29, 2022



**Main motivator for Arturo Flores was 'getting out of poverty'**

Arturo Flores found his calling in college after dropping out of school in eighth grade and struggling with addiction. After an arrest, Arturo was placed in Owensboro Regional Recovery, and the judge placed a court order requiring Arturo to complete his GED. That first step led Arturo to earning his associate degree at **Owensboro Community and Technical College** before going on to **Western Kentucky University** to get his bachelor's in social work and then pursuing his master's degree. He became a case manager at the same recovery center he was placed in, helping those struggling with the same things he did.

[Watch the video on YouTube >>](#)



**TITLE:** Report from the Finance Committee

**DESCRIPTION:** The following is a summary of the Committee's April 12, 2022 meeting.

**PRESENTER:** Lucas Mentzer, Chair of Finance Committee

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The Finance Committee will met on April 12, 2022. The following items are on the agenda for review:

- Reviewed and approved the Tuition and Mandatory Fee Policy for Academic Year 2022-23.
- Reviewed and approved of Campus Tuition and Fee Proposals for Northern Kentucky University and Kentucky Community and Technical College System.
- Reviewed and approved the Interim Capital Project request from Eastern Kentucky University
- Received an overview of the 2022-24 Budget of the Commonwealth and review of the KSU Special Appropriation as approved by HB 250.

The Finance Committee's next meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2022.

**TITLE:** Tuition and Mandatory Fee Policy

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Finance Committee recommends the Council approval the *Tuition and Mandatory Fee Policy* for Academic Year 2022-23, which does not reflect any changes from the previous year's policy.

**PRESENTERS:** Lucas Mentzer, Chair of the Finance Committee

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### **COMMITTEE REVIEW & APPROVAL**

The Finance Committee reviewed and approved the proposed Tuition and Mandatory Fee Policy at its April 12, 2022, meeting.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

The Finance Committee recommends the Council approval the *Tuition and Mandatory Fee Policy* for Academic Year 2022-23. Other than changing the year referenced in the header, this is the same policy that was approved by the Council at its January 29, 2021, meeting. Once approved, the policy will facilitate evaluation of campus tuition and fee rate proposals submitted for approval for the upcoming academic year.

The policy adopted for academic year 2021-22 helped guide the development of tuition and fee ceilings for academic years 2021-22 and 2022-23, which established a maximum base rate increase in any one year and a maximum rate increase over two years at each institution (i.e., two-year ceilings). After discussions between and among CPE staff and campus presidents and chief budget officers, it was determined that any substantive changes to the tuition and fee policy could be discussed at length and vetted ahead of the 2023-24 tuition setting cycle, so no changes to the policy are proposed for academic year 2022-23.

# Council Postsecondary Education Tuition and Mandatory Fee Policy

*Academic Year 2022-23*

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The Council on Postsecondary Education is vested with authority under KRS 164.020 to determine tuition at public postsecondary education institutions in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Kentucky's goals of increasing educational attainment, promoting research, assuring academic quality, and engaging in regional stewardship must be balanced with current needs, effective use of resources, and prevailing economic conditions. For the purposes of this policy, mandatory fees are included in the definition of tuition. During periods of relative austerity, the proper alignment of the state's limited financial resources requires increased attention to the goals of the *Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997* (HB 1) and the Strategic Agenda for Kentucky Postsecondary and Adult Education.

## Fundamental Objectives

- Funding Adequacy

HB 1 states that Kentucky shall have a seamless, integrated system of postsecondary education, strategically planned and adequately funded to enhance economic development and quality of life. In discharging its responsibility to determine tuition, the Council, in collaboration with the institutions, seeks to balance the affordability of postsecondary education for Kentucky's citizens with the institutional funding necessary to accomplish the goals of HB 1 and the Strategic Agenda.

- Shared Benefits and Responsibility

Postsecondary education attainment benefits the public at large in the form of a strong economy and an informed citizenry, and it benefits individuals through elevated quality of life, broadened career opportunities, and increased lifetime earnings. The Council and the institutions believe that funding postsecondary education is a shared responsibility of state and federal governments, students and families, and postsecondary education institutions.

- Affordability and Access

Since broad educational attainment is essential to a vibrant state economy and to intellectual, cultural, and political vitality, the Commonwealth of Kentucky seeks to ensure that postsecondary education is broadly accessible to its citizens. The Council and the institutions are committed to ensuring that college is affordable and accessible to all academically qualified Kentuckians with particular emphasis on adult learners, part-time students, minority students, and students from low- and moderate-income backgrounds.

The Council believes that no citizen of the Commonwealth who has the drive and ability to succeed should be denied access to postsecondary education in Kentucky because of inability to pay. Access should be provided through a reasonable combination of savings, family contributions, work, and financial aid, including grants and loans.

In developing a tuition and mandatory fees recommendation, the Council and the institutions shall work collaboratively and pay careful attention to balancing the cost of attendance—including tuition and mandatory fees, room and board, books, and other direct and indirect costs—with students' ability to pay by taking into account (1) students' family and individual income; (2) federal, state, and institutional scholarships and grants; (3) students' and parents' reliance on loans; (4) access to all postsecondary education alternatives; and (5) the need to enroll and graduate more students.

- **Effective Use of Resources**

Kentucky's postsecondary education system is committed to using the financial resources invested in it as effectively and productively as possible to advance the goals of HB 1 and the Strategic Agenda, including undergraduate and graduate education, engagement and outreach, research, and economic development initiatives. The colleges and universities seek to ensure that every dollar available to them is invested in areas that maximize results and outcomes most beneficial to the Commonwealth and its regions. It is anticipated that enactment of Senate Bill 153, the *Postsecondary Education Performance Funding Bill*, during the 2017 legislative session will provide ongoing incentives for increased efficiency and productivity within Kentucky's public postsecondary system. The Council's Strategic Agenda and funding model metrics will be used to monitor progress toward attainment of both statewide and institutional HB 1 and Strategic Agenda goals.

- **Attracting and Importing Talent to Kentucky**

It is unlikely that Kentucky can reach its 2030 postsecondary education attainment goal by focusing on Kentucky residents alone. The Council and the institutions are committed to making Kentucky institutions financially attractive to nonresident students, while recognizing that nonresident undergraduate students should pay a significantly larger proportion of the cost of their education than do resident students. Tuition reciprocity agreements, which provide low-cost access to out-of-state institutions for Kentucky students that live near the borders of other states, also serve to attract students from surrounding states to Kentucky's colleges and universities.

A copy of the Council's nonresident student tuition and mandatory fee policy is contained in the paragraphs below. Going forward, Council staff will periodically review and evaluate the policy to determine its impact on attracting and retaining students that enhance diversity and the state's competitiveness.

## **Nonresident Student Tuition and Fees**

The Council and the institutions believe that nonresident students should pay a larger share of their educational costs than do resident students. As such, published tuition

and fee levels adopted for nonresident students shall be higher than the prices for resident students enrolled in comparable programs of study.

In addition, every institution shall manage its tuition and fee rate structures, price discounting, and scholarship aid for out-of-state students, such that in any given year, the average net tuition and fee revenue generated per nonresident undergraduate student equals or exceeds 130% of the annual full-time tuition and fee charge assessed to resident undergraduate students (i.e., the published in-state sticker price). As part of the tuition and fee setting process, staff shall monitor and report annually to the Council regarding compliance with this requirement.

The Council acknowledges that in some instances increasing nonresident student enrollment benefits both the Commonwealth and the institution. For this reason, exceptions to the 130% threshold may be requested through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) process and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Council. The main objective of the MOU process is to clearly delineate goals and strategies embedded in enrollment management plans that advance the unique missions of requesting institutions.

### **Special Use Fee Exception Policy**

During the 2010-11 tuition setting process, campus officials requested that the Council consider excluding student-endorsed fees from its mandatory fee definition, thus omitting consideration of such fees when assessing institutional compliance with Council approved tuition and fee rate ceilings. Based on feedback received from institutional Chief Budget Officers (CBOs) at their December 2010 meeting, it was determined that there was general interest in treating student-endorsed fees differently from other mandatory fees.

In January and February 2011, Council staff collaborated with institutional presidents, CBOs, and their staffs in developing the following Special Use Fee Exception Policy:

- To the extent that students attending a Kentucky public college or university have deliberated, voted on, and requested that their institution's governing board implement a special use fee for the purposes of constructing and operating and maintaining a new facility, or renovating an existing facility, that supports student activities and services;
- And recognizing that absent any exemption, such student-endorsed fees, when implemented in the same year that the Council adopts tuition and fee rate ceilings, would reduce the amount of additional unrestricted tuition and fee revenue available for an institution to support its E&G operation;
- The Council may elect to award an exemption to its tuition and fee rate ceiling equivalent to all or a portion of the percentage increase resulting from imposition of the student-endorsed fee, provided said fee meets certain eligibility requirements.

### Definitions

A student-endorsed fee is a mandatory flat-rate fee that has been broadly discussed, voted on, and requested by students and adopted by an institution's governing board, the revenue from which may be used to pay debt service and operations and maintenance expenses on new facilities, or capital renewal and replacement costs on existing facilities and equipment that support student activities and services, such as student unions, fitness centers, recreation complexes, health clinics, and/or tutoring centers.

Maintenance and Operations (M&O) expenses are costs incurred for the administration, supervision, operation, maintenance, preservation, and protection of a facility. Examples of M&O expenses include janitorial services, utilities, care of grounds, security, environmental safety, routine repair, maintenance, replacement of furniture and equipment, and property and facility planning and management.

### Eligibility Criteria

A student-endorsed fee will continue to be a mandatory fee within the context of the Council's current mandatory fee definition and may qualify for an exemption from Council approved tuition and fee rate ceilings. Campus officials and students requesting an exemption under this policy must be able to demonstrate that:

- All enrolled students have been afforded ample opportunity to be informed, voice their opinions, and participate in the decision to endorse a proposed fee. Specifically, it must be shown that fee details have been widely disseminated, broadly discussed, voted on while school is in session, and requested by students.
- For purposes of this policy, voted on means attaining:
  - a) a simple majority vote via campus-wide referendum, with a minimum of one-quarter of currently enrolled students casting ballots;
  - b) a three-quarters vote of elected student government representatives; or
  - c) a simple majority vote via campus-wide referendum, conducted in conjunction and coinciding with the general election of a student government president or student representative to a campus board of regents or board of trustees.
- The proposed fee and intended exemption request have been presented to, and adopted by, the requesting institution's governing board. It is anticipated that elected student government representatives will actively participate in board presentations.
- Revenue from such fees will be used to pay debt service and M&O expenses on new facilities, or capital renewal and replacement costs on existing facilities and equipment that support student activities and services, such as student unions, fitness centers, recreation complexes, health clinics, and/or tutoring centers. The Council expects these uses to be fully explained to students prior to any votes endorsing a fee.



- In any given year, the impact of a student-endorsed fee on the overall increase in tuition and mandatory fees for students and their families will be reasonable. It may be appropriate to phase in the exemption over multiple years to maintain affordability and access.
- Requests for student-endorsed exemptions are infrequent events. The Council does not expect requests for exemptions under this policy to occur with undue frequency from any single institution and reserves the right to deny requests that by their sheer number are deemed excessive.
- A plan is in place for the eventual reduction or elimination of the fee upon debt retirement, and details of that plan have been shared with students. The Council does not expect a fee that qualifies for an exemption under this policy to be assessed at full rate in perpetuity. Such fees should either terminate upon completion of the debt or, in the case of new facilities, may continue at a reduced rate to defray ongoing M&O costs. In either case, to qualify for an exemption, students should be fully aware of the extent of their obligation prior to any votes endorsing a fee.

### Exemption Process

Requests for an exemption under this policy will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. To initiate the process:

- The requesting institution will notify Council staff of any pending discussions, open forums, referendums, or student government actions pertaining to a proposed special use fee and discuss fee details with Council staff as needed.
- After a fee has been endorsed by student referendum or through student government action and approved by the institution's governing board, campus officials and students will submit a written exemption request to the Council for its consideration.
- Council staff will review the request, assess whether or not the proposed fee qualifies for an exemption, and make a recommendation to the Council.

To facilitate the exemption request process, requesting institutions and students are required to provide the Council with the following information:

- Documents certifying that the specific project and proposed fee details have been widely disseminated, broadly discussed, voted on, and requested by students, as well as adopted by the institution's governing board.
- Documents specifying the fee amount, revenue estimates, uses of revenue, impact on tuition and fees during the year imposed (i.e., percentage points above the ceiling), and number of years the fee will be in place.

- Documents identifying the project's scope, time frame for completion, debt payment schedule, and plan for the eventual reduction or elimination of the fee upon debt retirement.

### **Asset Preservation Fee Exception Policy**

During the 2017-18 tuition setting process, campus officials asked if the Council would consider allowing institutions to assess a new student fee, dedicated to supporting expenditures for asset preservation and renovation projects, that would be treated as being outside the tuition and fee caps set annually by the Council. Staff responded that it was too late in the process to allow for a full vetting of a proposed change to the Council's Tuition and Mandatory Fee Policy prior to the Council adopting tuition ceilings at the March 31, 2017 meeting. In addition, staff wanted to explore the possibility of adopting a system-wide asset preservation fee that would benefit and address asset preservation needs at every public postsecondary institution.

In August 2017, staff determined that there was general interest among campus officials to pursue a change in tuition policy that would allow each institution the option to implement a student fee for asset preservation, if its administrators and governing board chose to do so, that would be exempted from Council approved tuition and fee ceilings. In September and October, Council staff worked with campus presidents, chief budget officers, and Budget Development Work Group members to develop the Asset Preservation Fee Exception Policy described below.

- Given that in 2007, Council and postsecondary institution staffs contracted with Vanderweil Facilities Advisors, Inc. (VFA) and Paulien and Associates to conduct a comprehensive assessment of Kentucky's public postsecondary education facilities to determine both system and individual campus needs for new and expanded space, asset preservation and renovation, and fit-for-use capital projects;
- Given that in 2013, VFA adjusted the data from its 2007 study to account for continuing aging of postsecondary facilities and rising construction costs, and projected that the cumulative need for asset preservation and fit-for-use expenditure would grow to \$7.3 billion within the 2017 to 2021 timeframe;
- Given that over the past five biennia, 2008-10 through 2016-18, the Commonwealth of Kentucky has appropriated a total of \$262.0 million for its public colleges and universities to address asset preservation and renovation and fit-for-use projects, representing about 3.6% of the total cumulative need identified by VFA;
- Given that in late summer 2017, the Council and postsecondary institutions concluded that one reasonable course of action to begin to address the overwhelming asset preservation and renovation and fit-for-use needs was through sizable and sustained investment in existing postsecondary facilities, which could be accomplished through a cost sharing arrangement involving the state, postsecondary institutions, and students and families;

- Given that the best way to ensure the ongoing commitment and participation of students and families in a cost-sharing partnership to address asset preservation and renovation needs is through the implementation of an optional dedicated student fee;
- Given that such an asset preservation fee, when implemented in the same year that the Council adopts a tuition and fee rate ceiling, would reduce the amount of additional unrestricted tuition and fee revenue available for an institution to support its E&G operation;
- The Council may elect to award an exemption to its tuition and fee rate ceiling of up to \$10.<sup>00</sup> per credit hour at the public universities, capped at 15 credit hours per semester for undergraduate students, for a dedicated student fee that supports asset preservation and renovation projects related to the instructional mission of the institution;
- The Council may elect to award an exemption to its tuition and fee rate ceiling of up to \$5.00 per credit hour at KCTCS institutions, capped at 15 credit hours per semester, for a dedicated student fee that supports asset preservation and renovation projects related to the instructional mission of the institution.

### Definition

An asset preservation fee is a mandatory, flat-rate fee that has been approved by an institution's governing board, the revenue from which shall either be expended upon collection on asset preservation and renovation and fit-for-use capital projects or used to pay debt service on agency bonds issued to finance such projects, that support the instructional mission of the institution. Thus, by definition, fee revenue and bond proceeds derived from such fees shall be restricted funds for the purposes of financing asset preservation and renovation projects. As a mandatory fee, an asset preservation fee may be assessed to students regardless of degree level or program or full-time or part-time status.

### Eligibility Criteria

An asset preservation fee may qualify for an exemption from Council approved tuition and fee rate ceilings, provided the following criteria are met:

- The proposed asset preservation project(s) and related fee shall be approved by the requesting institution's governing board.
- Revenue from the fee may either be expended upon collection on asset preservation and renovation or fit-for-use projects, accumulated to meet a specific project's scope, or used to pay debt service on agency bonds or other instruments used to finance such projects.
- Both the direct expenditure of fee revenue and the expenditure of agency bond funds generated by the fee may be used to meet matching requirements on state

bond funds issued for asset preservation projects. In previous biennia, state leaders have required a dollar-for-dollar institutional match on state-funded asset preservation pools.

- In any given academic year, the impact of implementing an asset preservation fee, when combined with a tuition and fee increase supporting campus operations, will be reasonable for Kentucky students and families. For the purposes of this policy exemption, the Council shall determine whether a proposed asset preservation fee, in combination with a tuition and fee increase allowed under a Council-approved tuition ceiling, is reasonable. This assessment will be made within the context of state economic and budgetary conditions, institutional resource needs, and affordability concerns at the time.
- Depending on the outcome of the aforementioned assessment, it may be appropriate to phase in a requested fee over multiple years to maintain affordability and access.
- The Council does not expect a fee that qualifies for an exemption under this policy to remain in effect in perpetuity. To be eligible for an exemption, the requesting institution must have a plan in place for the eventual elimination of a proposed asset preservation fee within 25 years of its initial implementation date.

### **Exemption Process**

The Council will evaluate requests for a fee exemption under this policy on a case-by-case basis. To initiate the process:

- An institution's governing board must approve the proposed asset preservation project(s) and related student fee.
- Campus officials must submit to the Council a copy of that board approval, along with a written request to exempt the asset preservation fee from Council tuition and fee ceilings.
- Council staff will review the request, assess whether or not the proposed project(s) and related fee qualify for an exemption, and make a recommendation to the Council.

To facilitate the exemption-request review process, a requesting institution shall provide the Council with the following information:

- Documents certifying that the specific asset preservation project(s) financed and proposed fee details have been approved by the institution's governing board.
- Documents specifying the fee amount, anticipated implementation date, revenue projections, uses of revenue, number of years the fee will be in place, and impact on tuition in year imposed (i.e., percentage points above ceiling).

- Documents identifying the project's scope, its timeframe for completion, debt payment schedule, and plan for the eventual elimination of the fee upon debt retirement.

### **Periodic Reporting**

- Upon request by the Council, the postsecondary institutions will provide documentation certifying the date an asset preservation fee was implemented, annual amounts of fee revenue generated to date, uses of fee revenue, the amount of fee revenue or agency bond funds used to meet state matching requirements on asset preservation project appropriations, and the number of years the fee will remain in place.

### **Ongoing Usage**

- Once an Asset Preservation Fee is approved by the Council, revenue generated from the fee may be used for ongoing asset preservation, renovation and fit-for-use projects with institutional board approval.
- Asset preservation, renovation and fit-for-use project(s) financed with asset preservation fee revenue shall comply with all statutory requirements pertaining to the approval of capital projects (KRS 45.750, KRS 45.763, KRS 164.020 (11) (a), KRS 164A.575).

**TITLE:** 2022-23 Campus Tuition and Mandatory Fee Proposals – NKU & KCTCS

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Finance Committee recommends the Council approve the tuition and mandatory fee proposals for academic year 2022-23 submitted by Northern Kentucky University and Kentucky Community and Technical College System.

**PRESENTERS:** Lucas Mentzer, Chair of the Finance Committee

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### **COMMITTEE REVIEW & APPROVAL**

The Finance Committee reviewed and approved the proposed Tuition and Mandatory Fee Proposals for Northern Kentucky University and Kentucky Community and Technical College System at its April 12, 2022, meeting.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On May 13, 2021, the Council on Postsecondary Education approved tuition and mandatory fee ceilings for academic years 2021-22 and 2022-23. Included among parameters adopted at that meeting is a requirement that base rate increases for resident undergraduate students not exceed 2.0% in any one year at the public universities, nor exceed \$3.00 per credit hour in any one year at KCTCS institutions.

Northern Kentucky University and KCTCS have submitted tuition and fee proposals for academic year 2022-23 to the Council. The NKU Board of Regents approved the proposed tuition and fee charges at their March 16, 2022, meeting. The KCTCS Board of Regents approved the proposed tuition and fee charges at their March 25, 2022, meeting.

Staff has reviewed each institution's proposed 2022-23 tuition and fee charges for every degree level, residency, and attendance status and determined that they comply with Council approved ceilings.

The Finance Committee recommends the Council approve the tuition and mandatory fee charges for resident undergraduate and graduate students, nonresident

undergraduate and graduate students, and on-line learners for academic year 2022-23 as proposed by the institutions and approved by their governing boards.

## **COUNCIL APPROVED TUITION AND FEE CEILINGS**

On May 13, 2021, the Council adopted resident undergraduate tuition and mandatory fee ceilings that equate to:

- a maximum base rate increase of no more than 3.0 percent over two years, and a maximum increase of no more than 2.0 percent in any one year, for public research and comprehensive universities; and
- a maximum base rate increase of no more than \$5.00 per credit hour over two years, and a maximum increase of no more than \$3.00 per credit hour in any one year, for students attending KCTCS institutions.

At that same meeting, it was determined that the public institutions shall be allowed to submit for Council review and approval:

- Nonresident undergraduate tuition and fee rates that comply with the Council's *2021-22 Tuition and Mandatory Fees Policy*, or otherwise adhere to provisions of an existing Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and an institution.
- Market competitive tuition and fee rates for graduate and online courses.

A top priority for the Council in adopting these parameters was keeping tuition and fee increases to a minimum to help students and families who may have been struggling financially due to the Coronavirus pandemic. While maintaining affordability was the overriding concern, there was also recognition that small increases in tuition and fees are necessary to help institutions maintain quality academic programs, address inflationary cost increases, and continue making progress toward achieving the state's 60x30 college attainment goal. Toward that end, staff believes the adopted ceilings achieved an appropriate balance between resource needs of the institutions and affordability for Kentucky students and families.

As a reminder, the resident undergraduate tuition and fee ceilings approved by the Council apply to each institution's base rate charge. Base rates are defined as total tuition and fee charges, minus any Special Use Fees and Asset Preservation Fees previously approved by the Council, and minus an agency bond fee at KCTCS (i.e., BuildSmart Investment for Kentucky Competitiveness Fee). Council staff deduct these fees from total tuition and fees before applying a percent increase parameter, which keeps the fees at a fixed amount each year until they expire. The paragraphs below contain proposed base rates for academic year 2022-23, current-year base rates, and calculated dollar and percent changes between those rates for each institution.

## **CAMPUS TUITION AND FEE PROPOSALS**

Officials from NKU and KCTCS have submitted to the Council tuition and fee proposals for academic year 2022-23, along with tuition and fee revenue estimates for fiscal years 2021-22 and 2022-23. The NKU Board of Regents approved the proposed tuition and fee charges at their March 16, 2022, meeting. The KCTCS Board of Regents approved the proposed tuition and fee charges at their March 25, 2022, meeting.

Staff has reviewed each institution's proposed 2022-23 tuition and fee charges for every degree level, residency, and attendance status and determined that they comply with Council approved ceilings.

### **Northern Kentucky University**

On April 6, 2022, Northern Kentucky University submitted a proposal to the Council, containing planned tuition and mandatory fee charges for academic year 2022-23. As can be seen in Table 1, between academic years 2021-22 and 2022-23, the university is proposing to increase its annual base-rate charge for resident undergraduate students by \$196.<sup>00</sup>, or 2.0 percent. This increase complies with the Council's approved ceiling for resident undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees, which stipulates that base rates cannot increase by more than 2.0 percent in any one year at public research and comprehensive universities.

Per the approved ceiling, NKU's maximum possible base rate charge for 2022-23 for resident undergraduate students is \$10,209 (a 3.0 percent increase from \$9,912). The university's proposed tuition and fee charges for undergraduate nonresident and on-line students also adhere to Council parameters. NKU will present rates for graduate and doctorate students at the June 17, 2022, CPE meeting.

The tuition and fees included in NKU's proposal were approved by the university's Board of Regents at their March 16 meeting. Staff recommends that the Finance Committee approve, and endorse to the full Council, tuition and fee rates as proposed by Northern Kentucky University and approved by the university's governing board.

Attachment A contains additional categories of tuition and fee charges, including proposed per-credit-hour rates for part-time resident and nonresident undergraduate students and online rates. Staff recommends approval of these additional rates as proposed by the university.



Northern Kentucky University Proposed Tuition and Fee Base Rates Academic Year 2022-23					Table 1
Rate Category	Current 2021-22 Base Rates	Proposed 2022-23 Base Rates	Dollar Change	Percent Change	
Undergraduate					
Resident	\$10,012	\$10,208	\$196	2.0%	
Nonresident	\$20,070	\$20,464	\$394	2.0%	
Graduate					
Resident	\$550.00 pch	n/a pch	n/a	n/a	
Nonresident	\$845.00 pch	n/a pch	n/a	n/a	

Base rates for Northern Kentucky University do not include a Special Use Fee of \$192.00 per semester, or \$384 per year, for full-time students.  
pch = per credit hour

**Estimated Tuition Revenue**

NKU officials estimate that proposed 2022-23 tuition and mandatory fee charges for all categories of students (i.e., every academic level, residency, and full-time or part-time status) will generate about \$181.2 million in gross tuition and fee revenue, which is \$6.3 million more than anticipated revenue for the current year (see Attachment B). The university’s E&G fixed costs are projected to increase by \$12.6 million between fiscal years 2021-22 and 2022-23, which represents an increase of about 5.8 percent over current-year costs.

**Kentucky Community and Technical College System**

On March 28, 2022, the Kentucky Community and Technical College System submitted a proposal to the Council, containing planned tuition and mandatory fee charges for academic year 2022-23. As can be seen in Table 2 below, between academic years 2021-22 and 2022-23, the system is proposing to increase its annual base-rate charge for resident students by \$3.00, or 1.7 percent. This complies with the Council’s approved ceiling for resident tuition and mandatory fees, which stipulates that base rates cannot increase by more than \$3.00 in any one year at KCTCS institutions. The system’s proposed tuition and fee charges for nonresident and on-line students also adhere to Council parameters.

The tuition and fees included in KCTCS’s proposal were approved by the system’s Board of Regents at their March 25 meeting. Staff recommends that the Finance Committee approve, and endorse to the full Council, tuition and fee rates as proposed

by the Kentucky Community and Technical College System and approved by the system’s governing board.

Kentucky Community and Technical College System					Table 2
Proposed Tuition and Fee Base Rates					
Academic Year 2022-23					
<u>Rate Category</u>	<u>Current 2021-22 Base Rates</u>	<u>Proposed 2022-23 Base Rates</u>	<u>Dollar Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>	
Resident					
Per Credit Hour	\$179 pch	\$182 pch	\$3	1.7%	
30 Credit Hours	\$5,370	\$5,460	\$90	1.7%	
Nonresident					
Per Credit Hour	\$358 pch	\$368 pch	\$10	2.8%	
30 Credit Hours	\$10,740	\$11,040	\$300	2.8%	
Base rates for KCTCS do not include an \$8.00 per credit hour BuildSmart Investment for Kentucky Competitiveness Fee.					

Attachment C contains additional tuition and fees, including per-credit-hour rates for students from non-resident – contiguous counties, rates for other nonresident students, online rates, and rates for dual-credit students. Attachment C shows billable charges for students enrolled at various levels of credit hours taken (e.g., 3 hours, 6 hours, 9 hours, etc.). Staff recommends approval of these rates as proposed by KCTCS.

Estimated Tuition Revenue

KCTCS officials estimate that proposed 2022-23 tuition and mandatory fee charges for all categories of students (i.e., every academic level, residency, and full-time or part-time status) will generate about \$248.1 million in gross tuition and fee revenue, which is \$6.7 million more than anticipated revenue for the current year (see Attachment D). The system’s E&G fixed costs are projected to increase by \$30.8 million between fiscal years 2021-22 and 2022-23, which represents an increase of about 4.1 percent over current year costs.

# Campus Tuition and Fee Proposals

## Northern Kentucky University

Northern Kentucky University  
Proposed Tuition and Fee Base Rates  
Academic Year 2022-23

Table 1

<u>Rate Category</u>	<u>Current 2021-22 Base Rates</u>	<u>Proposed 2022-23 Base Rates</u>	<u>Dollar Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Undergraduate				
Resident	\$10,012	\$10,208	\$196	2.0%
Nonresident	\$20,070	\$20,464	\$394	2.0%
Graduate				
Resident	\$550.00 pch	n/a pch	n/a	n/a
Nonresident	\$845.00 pch	n/a pch	n/a	n/a

Base rates for Northern Kentucky University do not include a Special Use Fee of \$192.00 per semester, or \$384 per year, for full-time students.

pch = per credit hour

- Between academic years 2020-21 and 2021-22, NKU increased resident undergraduate tuition by \$100 or 1.0%
- For 2022-23, NKU is proposing a \$196 increase or 2.0%
- NKU's proposed rates comply with Council approved ceilings:
  - No more than a 3.0% increase over two years
  - No more than a 2.0% increase in any one year

**Proposed 2022-23 Tuition and Mandatory Fee Charges  
Northern Kentucky University**

	Fall 2022	Spring 2023	Annual 2022-23	Summer 2023	Winter 2022
<i>Category-Tuition</i>					
<b>Undergraduate</b>					
<b>Credit Hour (1-11, 17+ hours)</b>					
Resident, Ohio Reciprocity, Indiana Rate	\$425	\$425	N/A	\$425	\$425
Metro (returning)	\$643	\$643	N/A	\$643	\$643
Nonresident	\$853	\$853	N/A	\$853	\$853
Online (accelerated and all other)	\$461	\$461	N/A	\$461	\$461
RN-BSN Online Partner (Note 1)	\$300	\$300	N/A	\$300	\$300
School Based Scholars (Note 2)	\$72	\$72	N/A	\$72	\$72
<b>Full-Time 12-16 Hours (Semester)</b>					
Resident, Ohio Reciprocity, Indiana Rate	\$5,104	\$5,104	\$10,208	N/A	N/A
Metro (returning)	\$7,724	\$7,724	\$15,448	N/A	N/A
Nonresident	\$10,232	\$10,232	\$20,464	N/A	N/A
<b>Graduate/Doctorate - Per Credit Hour</b>					
Resident	<b>Received CPE approval to present the Graduate/Doctorate rates at the June CPE meeting.</b>				
Ohio/Indiana					
Nonresident					
Nonresident & Resident - Online					
College of Informatics - MHI Accelerated Online					
<b>Master of Education - Per Credit Hour</b>					
Master of Arts in Education - non accelerated online					
Master of Arts in Education - accelerated online					
Master of Arts in Teaching - accelerated online					
Alternative Certification in Special Ed - AOL					
MAED: Teacher as Leader - Great 8 Cohort					
<b>Education Post Masters - Per Credit Hour</b>					
Education Specialist T&L - accelerated online					
Education Specialist-other than accelerated online					
Graduate Certifications/Rank 1					
<b>Education Doctorate - Per Credit Hour</b>					
Resident					
Ohio/Indiana					
Nonresident					
<b>Business Graduate - Per Credit Hour</b>					
Resident					
Ohio/Indiana					
Nonresident					
Accelerated Online Master of Business					
Master of Business in Leadership & Innovation (MBLI)					
MBA International Partnership					

**Proposed 2022-23 Tuition and Mandatory Fee Charges  
Northern Kentucky University**

	Fall 2022	Spring 2023	Annual 2022-23	Summer 2023	Winter 2022
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*Category-Tuition*

*College of Health and Human Services (Nursing Grad Cohort Programs) - Per Credit Hour*

- Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) - accelerated
- DNP - Post Masters - non accelerated online
- DNP - Nursing Anesthesia (resident)
- DNP - Nursing Anesthesia (non resident)
- DNP - Nurse Anesthesia Post Masters-non accelerated
- Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) - accelerated
- MSN - non accelerated
- MS - Health Science - accelerated
- Master of Science in Exercise Science - non accelerated
- Master of Science in Athletic Training (resident)
- Master of Science in Athletic Training (non-resident)
- Occupational Therapy Doctorate
- MA School Counseling and/or MS Clinical Mental Health Counseling (resident)
- MA School Counseling and/or MS Clinical Mental Health Counseling (non-resident)
- MA School Counseling and/or MS Clinical Mental Health Counseling (Graduate Metro)

**Received CPE approval to present the Graduate/Doctorate rates at the June CPE meeting.**

**Law**

- Resident
  - Full-time (13 - 16 credit hours)
  - Per Credit Hour
- Nonresident
  - Full-time (13 - 16 credit hours)
  - Per Credit Hour
- MLS Accelerated Online
- LLM (Master in Law for International Students)

**Mandatory Fee (Special Use) Campus Recreation**

Per credit hour - caps at 12 hrs/semester (\$192)

**Estimated 2022-23 Gross Tuition and Mandatory Fee Revenue  
Northern Kentucky University**

<i>Category - Tuition</i>	Estimated 2021-22	Estimated 2022-23
<b><i>Undergraduate</i></b>		
Resident	\$ 62,581,366	\$ 65,170,036
Nonresident	48,413,563	50,416,184
<b><i>Graduate</i></b>		
Resident	31,370,542	32,220,927
Nonresident	27,675,718	28,435,443
<b><i>Total Gross Tuition</i></b>	\$ 170,041,189	\$ 176,242,590
<b><i>Category - Mandatory Fee</i></b>		
Special Use Fee (Campus Rec Fee)	4,909,107	5,007,289
<b>TOTAL TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES</b>	\$ 174,950,296	\$ 181,249,879

# Campus Tuition and Fee Proposals

## Kentucky Community and Technical College System

Kentucky Community and Technical College System  
Proposed Tuition and Fee Base Rates  
Academic Year 2022-23

Table 2

<u>Rate Category</u>	<u>Current 2021-22 Base Rates</u>	<u>Proposed 2022-23 Base Rates</u>	<u>Dollar Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
<b>Resident</b>				
Per Credit Hour	\$179 pch	\$182 pch	\$3	1.7%
30 Credit Hours	\$5,370	\$5,460	\$90	1.7%
<b>Nonresident</b>				
Per Credit Hour	\$358 pch	\$368 pch	\$10	2.8%
30 Credit Hours	\$10,740	\$11,040	\$300	2.8%

Base rates for KCTCS do not include an \$8.00 per credit hour BuildSmart Investment for Kentucky Competitiveness Fee.

- Between 2020-21 and 2021-22, KCTCS did not increase resident student tuition (i.e., \$0 or 0%)
- For 2022-23, KCTCS is proposing a \$3.00 per credit hour increase or 1.7%
- KCTCS's proposed rates comply with Council approved ceilings:
  - No more than a \$5.00 per credit hour increase over two years
  - No more than a \$3.00 per credit hour increase in any one year

**Proposed 2022-23 Tuition and Mandatory Fee Charges  
Kentucky Community and Technical College System**

<i>Category</i>	<u>Fall 2022</u>	<u>Spring 2023</u>	<u>Annual 2022-23</u>	<u>Summer 2023</u>
<i>Resident</i>				
Per Credit Hour	\$182	\$182		\$182
Charge for Students Enrolled with 3 Credit Hours	546	546		546
Charge for Students Enrolled with 6 Credit Hours	1,092	1,092		1,092
Charge for Students Enrolled with 9 Credit Hours	1,638	1,638		1,638
Charge for Students Enrolled with 12 Credit Hours	2,184	2,184		2,184
Charge for Students Enrolled with 15 Credit Hours	2,730	2,730		2,730
<i>Nonresident - Contiguous Counties</i>				
Per Credit Hour	\$368	\$368		\$368
Charge for Students Enrolled with 3 Credit Hours	1,104	1,104		1,104
Charge for Students Enrolled with 6 Credit Hours	2,208	2,208		2,208
Charge for Students Enrolled with 9 Credit Hours	3,312	3,312		3,312
Charge for Students Enrolled with 12 Credit Hours	4,416	4,416		4,416
Charge for Students Enrolled with 15 Credit Hours	5,520	5,520		5,520
<i>Nonresident - Other</i>				
Per Credit Hour	\$637	\$637		\$637
Charge for Students Enrolled with 3 Credit Hours	1,911	1,911		1,911
Charge for Students Enrolled with 6 Credit Hours	3,822	3,822		3,822
Charge for Students Enrolled with 9 Credit Hours	5,733	5,733		5,733
Charge for Students Enrolled with 12 Credit Hours	7,644	7,644		7,644
Charge for Students Enrolled with 15 Credit Hours	9,555	9,555		9,555
<i>Online</i>				
Per Credit Hour	182	182		182
<i>Dual Credit</i>				
Per Credit Hour	91	91		91
<i>Agency Bond Fee*</i>				
Per Credit Hour	\$8	\$8		\$8

\*Not assessed to online or dual credit students.



**ATTACHMENT D**

**Estimated 2022-23 Gross Tuition and Mandatory Fee Revenue  
Kentucky Community and Technical College System**

<u>Category</u>	<u>Estimated 2021-22</u>	<u>Estimated 2022-23</u>
<i>Undergraduate</i>		
Resident	100,652,200	\$ 103,447,700
Nonresident	3,934,300	4,043,600
Online	95,378,400	98,027,500
Dual Credit	32,456,600	33,358,000
Agency Bond Fee	9,000,000	9,250,000
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$ 241,421,500</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 248,126,800</u></b>

**TITLE:** Interim Capital Project – ECU Upgrade of Building Management System Controls

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Finance Committee recommends the Council approve a \$1,150,000 federally funded interim capital project at Eastern Kentucky University to upgrade building management system controls.

**PRESENTERS:** Lucas Mentzer, Chair of the Finance Committee

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### **COMMITTEE REVIEW & APPROVAL**

The Finance Committee reviewed and approved the proposed Interim Capital Project at its April 12, 2022, meeting. Council member Kellie Ellis disclosed that her office is located in the building impacted by this upgrade and it was included in the minutes as such.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) officials request CPE approval for an interim capital project to improve building system reliability, and indoor ventilation and air quality. The project will replace an aging system with a security-compliant operating system.

Federal funds provided to ECU to respond to the Coronavirus pandemic (i.e., CARES Act, CRRSA, and ARP Act) will be used to fund this \$1,150,000 project, which will upgrade building management system controls at the following buildings: Burnham, Cammack, Campbell, Corbin, Donovan, Moberly, Wallace, and Whitlock. Additional federal funds may become available to expand the scope of this project.

House Bill 592 (2018) created a new provision in KRS 164A.575, which allows public postsecondary institutions to authorize capital projects not specifically listed in the state budget as long as the projects are funded with non-general fund appropriations, do not jeopardize funding for existing programs, and are reported by the institution to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee. The pertinent section of KRS 164A.575 is provided below:

- (15) Notwithstanding KRS 45.760, the governing board may authorize a capital construction project or a major item of equipment even though it is not specifically listed in any branch budget bill, subject to the following conditions and procedures:
- (a) The full cost shall be funded solely by non-general fund appropriations;
  - (b) Moneys specifically budgeted and appropriated by the General Assembly for another purpose shall not be allotted or re-allotted for expenditure on the project or major item of equipment. Moneys utilized shall not jeopardize any existing program and shall not require the use of any current general funds specifically dedicated to existing programs; and
  - (c) The institution's president, or designee, shall submit the project or major item of equipment to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee for review as provided by KRS 45.800.

The approval process for a capital project that exceeds \$1,000,000 is listed below.

- The project must be submitted to the Council on Postsecondary Education for review and action.
- If approved by the Council, projects at KCTCS and KSU are submitted to the Secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet for review and action, and subsequently submitted by the Secretary to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee for review.
- If approved by the Council, projects at ECU, MoSU, MuSU, NKU, UK, UofL, and WKU are submitted by the requesting institution to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee for review, and a copy is provided to the Finance and Administration Cabinet as information.
- Following review and action by the appropriate agencies, the project may be initiated by the requesting institution.

Because this project was not previously approved by the Council and it was not authorized in the enacted 2020-22 budget, Council approval is now required to authorize this project. ECU will not be debt financing any portion of this project; therefore, provisions of KRS 45.763 do not apply.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Following Council action, staff will notify the president of ECU, the Secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet, and the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee of the Council's recommendation concerning this project.



## EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

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Barry D. Poynter  
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March 22, 2022

The Honorable Rick Girdler, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Chris Freeland, Co-Chair  
Capital Projects & Bond Oversight Committee  
Legislative Research Commission,  
Capitol Annex Building  
700 Capitol Avenue  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Senator Girdler, Representative Freeland and members of the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee,

In accordance with provisions of KRS 45.750(1)(f)(6), KRS 45.760(6)(a)(1) and (7)(c) and KRS 164A.600, Eastern Kentucky University (EKU), is reporting the following actions for a 100% federally funded capital project:

### **Upgrade Building Management System Controls – Federal Funds**

EKU is reporting a new federal funds appropriation for an information technology capital project appropriated for \$1,150,000.

This information technology capital project appropriation will improve building system reliability, indoor ventilation and air quality along with building automation systems via a campus-wide graphical user interface that will utilize and upgrade multiple building supervisory control systems modifying Windows XP-era network controls to a current, security-compliant Linux Operating System. Building control upgrades primarily include, but are not limited to, Burnam Building, Cammack Building, Campbell Building, Corbin Campus Building, Donovan Building, Moberly Building, Wallace Building, and Whitlock Building.

The funding from the U.S. Department of Education originated with the CARES Act and included supplemental actions through the CRRSA and ARP Acts. This project is eligible for extension per recent guidance. This could mean additional, future federal funding; however, the reported appropriation is sufficient for project completion under the current scope.

Please contact Ryan Green, Executive Director for Budget & Financial Planning, at (859) 622-6932 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Barry Poynter".

Barry D. Poynter  
Senior Vice President

c: Ryan D. Green, Eastern Kentucky University  
Dr. Bryan Makinen, Eastern Kentucky University  
Shaun McKiernan, Council on Postsecondary Education  
Ethan Witt, Eastern Kentucky University  
Carla Wright, Office of State Budget Director

**TITLE:** 2022-2024 Budget of the Commonwealth (HB1/FCCR)

**PRESENTERS:** Shaun McKiernan, Executive Director of Finance and Budget, CPE  
Bill Payne, Vice President for Finance and Administration, CPE

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## SUMMARY

On March 30, the Kentucky House and Senate passed a Free Conference Committee Report (FCCR) of House Bill 1 (HB 1), the 2022-24 Budget of the Commonwealth. The report contained a number of positive provisions for postsecondary education, which are outlined below.

### Campus Operating Funds

- The FCCR budget provides \$80 million in new funding for the Postsecondary Education Performance Fund each year of the biennium (or \$97.3 million in total when added to the current year \$17.3 million base).
- It maintains pension subsidies at 2021-22 levels in fiscal year 2022-23 for participating KERS institutions (i.e., comprehensive universities, excluding NKU, and KCTCS), although the subsidies are reduced by 10% in 2023-24.
- Adds \$27.7 million in new mandated program funding in 2022-23 and \$23.2 million in 2023-24, relative to the current year base (see Attachment A for more detail).
- Additional support for postsecondary institution operations totals \$107.8 million in 2022-23 and \$103.2 million in 2023-24 (net of debt service in each year), which represent increases over the 2021-22 base of 11.9% and 11.4%, respectively (see Attachment B for dollar and percent change figures by institution).

### Capital Investment

- The FCCR budget provides \$683.5 million for asset preservation pools (bond funded, with half of the funding available in the first year, and half in the second) with institutional matching requirements of 30% for research institutions, 15% for the comprehensive universities and KCTCS (see Attachment C for campus specific allocations of Asset Preservation Pool funds and required matching amounts).
- It also appropriates \$811.9 million for new construction or renovation projects on postsecondary campuses. This amount is bond funded, with funding for ECU's Alumni Coliseum project available in 2022-23 and remaining funds available for

institutions to access in 2023-24 (see Attachment D for a listing of new construction and renovation projects by institution).

- It provides \$1.0 million in General Fund appropriations for campus Kentucky Regional Optical Network (KyRON) upgrades.
- Debt service of \$13.4 million in 2022-23 and \$67.3 million in 2023-24 for asset preservation, new construction, and renovation projects is included in campus General Fund appropriations listed in the budget bill.

### Trust Funds

- The FCCR budget appropriates \$40.0 million in total for Bucks for Brains, \$30.0 million to the Research Challenge Trust Fund for research universities and \$10.0 million to the Comprehensive University Excellence Trust Fund for comprehensive institutions.
- It also provides \$2.2 million in 2022-23 for Workforce Development Trust Fund to increase credential production capacity for identified supply gaps and support program offerings in targeted industry sectors within the Kentucky Community and Technical College System.

### CPE Agency Budget

- The FCCR budget appropriates \$10.0 million in federal funds in 2022-23 for a Healthcare Workforce Initiative, administered by CPE.
- It provides an 8% salary increase for all state employees in fiscal year 2022-23. Additional funding to cover the increase for CPE was included in the agency's General Fund operating appropriation. It signals an intent to provide a salary increase in 2023-24, pending completion of a comprehensive review by Personnel Cabinet of the current salary schedule. The review will consider locality, seniority, and other factors.

In its entirety, the 2022-2024 FCCR budget represents one of the best budgets for higher education in decades. President Aaron Thompson, CPE staff, and campus presidents and chief budget officers are very appreciative of this investment in Kentucky higher education and the bright future for the Commonwealth that it portends.

Council on Postsecondary Education  
 Comparison of Line-Itemed Mandated Program Appropriations  
 Between 2021-22 Enacted Budget and 2022-2024 Free Conference Committee Budget

ATTACHMENT A

Institution/Mandated Program	Enacted Budget (21 RS, HB 192)	FCCR Budget (22 RS, HB 1/FCCR)		FCCR Budget Additions (Reductions)	
	Fiscal Year 2021-22	Fiscal Year 2022-23	Fiscal Year 2023-24	Fiscal Year 2022-23	Fiscal Year 2023-24
<b>University of Kentucky</b>					
College of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service	31,275,300	35,420,800	35,420,800	4,145,500	4,145,500
Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station	29,479,600	31,434,100	31,434,100	1,954,500	1,954,500
Center for Applied Energy Research	5,176,200	10,176,200	10,176,200	5,000,000	5,000,000
Kentucky Geological Survey	4,076,300	4,076,300	4,076,300	0	0
Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory	4,034,200	4,034,200	4,034,200	0	0
Sanders-Brown Center on Aging	2,040,500	2,040,500	2,040,500	0	0
College of Agriculture Division of Regulatory Services	1,800,000	1,800,000	1,800,000	0	0
College of Agriculture Kentucky Small Business Development Center	600,000	600,000	600,000	0	0
University Press of Kentucky	586,300	586,300	586,300	0	0
Human Development Institute Supported Higher Education Project	500,000	500,000	500,000	0	0
Center of Excellence in Rural Health	450,200	450,200	450,200	0	0
Kentucky Cancer Registry	450,200	450,200	450,200	0	0
Sports Medicine Research Institute	100,000	100,000	100,000	0	0
Markey Cancer Center	0	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>80,568,800</b>	<b>101,668,800</b>	<b>101,668,800</b>	<b>21,100,000</b>	<b>21,100,000</b>
<b>University of Louisville</b>					
Rural Health Education Program	695,200	695,200	695,200	0	0
Kentucky Autism Training Center	150,000	150,000	150,000	0	0
School of Dentistry Patient Dental Care	100,000	100,000	100,000	0	0
Center for Military Connected Students	0	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Dental Equipment to Support Clinical Rotations in Rural Areas	0	100,000	0	100,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>945,200</b>	<b>1,345,200</b>	<b>1,245,200</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>
<b>Eastern Kentucky University</b>					
Model Laboratory School	4,571,900	4,571,900	4,571,900	0	0
Center for the Arts	0	200,000	0	200,000	0
Pension Subsidy (HB 8 Reductions)	8,909,700	8,909,700	8,023,100	0	(886,600)
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,481,600</b>	<b>13,681,600</b>	<b>12,595,000</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>(886,600)</b>
<b>Kentucky State University</b>					
Land-Grant Match	8,210,400	8,881,900	8,881,900	671,500	671,500
West Louisville HBCU Pilot Project	200,000	200,000	200,000	0	0
Pension Subsidy (HB 8 Reductions)	558,200	558,200	503,400	0	(54,800)
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,968,600</b>	<b>9,640,100</b>	<b>9,585,300</b>	<b>671,500</b>	<b>616,700</b>

Council on Postsecondary Education  
 Comparison of Line-Itemed Mandated Program Appropriations  
 Between 2021-22 Enacted Budget and 2022-2024 Free Conference Committee Budget

Institution/Mandated Program	Enacted Budget (21 RS, HB 192)	FCCR Budget (22 RS, HB 1/FCCR)		FCCR Budget Additions (Reductions)	
	Fiscal Year 2021-22	Fiscal Year 2022-23	Fiscal Year 2023-24	Fiscal Year 2022-23	Fiscal Year 2023-24
<b>Morehead State University</b>					
Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics	3,480,400	4,985,100	4,985,100	1,504,700	1,504,700
Jet Propulsion Laboratory	0	0	0	0	0
Erect Second Satellite Dish	0	250,000	0	250,000	0
Pension Subsidy (HB 8 Reductions)	4,913,000	4,913,000	4,411,800	0	(501,200)
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,393,400</b>	<b>10,148,100</b>	<b>9,396,900</b>	<b>1,754,700</b>	<b>1,003,500</b>
<b>Murray State University</b>					
Breathitt Veterinary Center	3,200,000	4,034,200	4,034,200	834,200	834,200
Pension Subsidy (HB 8 Reductions)	3,270,900	3,270,900	2,929,600	0	(341,300)
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,470,900</b>	<b>7,305,100</b>	<b>6,963,800</b>	<b>834,200</b>	<b>492,900</b>
<b>Northern Kentucky University</b>					
Kentucky Center for Mathematics	1,323,900	1,323,900	1,323,900	0	0
<b>Western Kentucky University</b>					
Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science	4,985,100	4,985,100	4,985,100	0	0
Kentucky Mesonet	750,000	1,750,000	1,750,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Pension Subsidy (HB 8 Reductions)	3,592,500	3,592,500	3,237,200	0	(355,300)
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,327,600</b>	<b>10,327,600</b>	<b>9,972,300</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>	<b>644,700</b>
<b>→ University Total</b>	<b>129,480,000</b>	<b>155,440,400</b>	<b>152,751,200</b>	<b>25,960,400</b>	<b>23,271,200</b>
<b>Kentucky Community and Technical College System</b>					
KCTCS-TRAINS	4,149,800	4,149,800	4,149,800	0	0
Kentucky Fire Commission	1,869,900	1,869,900	1,869,900	0	0
Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services	1,799,700	1,799,700	1,799,700	0	0
Adult Agriculture Education	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	0
WKCTC Aviation Program	0	900,000	0	900,000	0
Madisonville Community College Aviation Program	0	900,000	0	900,000	0
Pension Subsidy (HB 8 Reductions)	854,900	854,900	765,200	0	(89,700)
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,674,300</b>	<b>11,474,300</b>	<b>9,584,600</b>	<b>1,800,000</b>	<b>(89,700)</b>
<b>→ Grand Total</b>	<b>139,154,300</b>	<b>166,914,700</b>	<b>162,335,800</b>	<b>27,760,400</b>	<b>23,181,</b>



Council on Postsecondary Education  
 Appropriations for Postsecondary Institution Operations  
 Crosswalk from Current-Year Base to 2022-2024 Free Conference Committee Budget

2022-2024 FCCR Budget (HB 1/FCCR)

Current-Year Base (2021-22):	UK	UofL	EKU	KSU	MoSU	MuSU	NKU	WKU	KCTCS	PEPF	Total
2021-22 Regular Appropriation	\$266,243,800	\$127,156,800	\$74,323,900	\$27,186,100	\$43,324,900	\$47,024,700	\$52,247,500	\$76,946,600	\$175,435,900	\$17,307,100	\$907,197,300
Plus: 2021-22 Performance Distribution	6,086,400	2,972,500	120,200	0	0	0	2,902,700	1,398,800	3,826,500	(17,307,100)	0
Special Appropriation	0	0	0	200,000	0	0	0	0	0	-- NA --	200,000
2021-22 Total General Fund	\$272,330,200	\$130,129,300	\$74,444,100	\$27,386,100	\$43,324,900	\$47,024,700	\$55,150,200	\$78,345,400	\$179,262,400	\$0	\$907,397,300
Minus: 2021-22 Debt Service	(1,013,000)	0	0	(182,000)	0	0	0	0	0	-- NA --	(1,195,000)
Performance Adjustment (KRS 164.092)	(6,086,400)	(2,972,500)	(120,200)	0	0	0	(2,902,700)	(1,398,800)	(3,826,500)	17,307,100	0
➔ 2021-22 Adjusted Net General Fund Baseline	\$265,230,800	\$127,156,800	\$74,323,900	\$27,204,100	\$43,324,900	\$47,024,700	\$52,247,500	\$76,946,600	\$175,435,900	\$17,307,100	\$906,202,300
<b>First-Year Operating Funds (2022-23):</b>											
➔ 2021-22 Adjusted Net General Fund Baseline	\$265,230,800	\$127,156,800	\$74,323,900	\$27,204,100	\$43,324,900	\$47,024,700	\$52,247,500	\$76,946,600	\$175,435,900	\$17,307,100	\$906,202,300
Plus: Additional Appropriations											
Performance Funding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	80,000,000	80,000,000
Mandated Programs	21,100,000 <sup>a</sup>	400,000 <sup>b</sup>	200,000 <sup>c</sup>	671,500 <sup>d</sup>	1,754,700 <sup>e</sup>	834,200 <sup>f</sup>	0	1,000,000 <sup>g</sup>	1,800,000 <sup>h</sup>	-- NA --	27,760,400
Pension Subsidy Adjustment (HB 8) <sup>i</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-- NA --	0
Debt Service <sup>j</sup>	2,777,500	1,475,000	2,117,000	290,000	634,500	850,000	843,000	1,226,500	3,229,000	-- NA --	13,442,500
2022-23 FCCR Budget General Fund (HB 1/FCCR)	\$289,108,300	\$129,031,800	\$76,640,900	\$28,165,600	\$45,714,100	\$48,708,900	\$53,090,500	\$79,173,100	\$180,464,900	\$97,307,100	\$1,027,405,200
Dollar Change from Baseline	\$23,877,500	\$1,875,000	\$2,317,000	\$961,500	\$2,389,200	\$1,684,200	\$843,000	\$2,226,500	\$5,029,000	\$80,000,000	\$121,202,900
Percent Change from Baseline	9.0%	1.5%	3.1%	3.5%	5.5%	3.6%	1.6%	2.9%	2.9%	-- NA --	13.4%
<b>Second-Year Operating Funds (2023-24):</b>											
➔ 2021-22 Adjusted Net General Fund Baseline	\$265,230,800	\$127,156,800	\$74,323,900	\$27,204,100	\$43,324,900	\$47,024,700	\$52,247,500	\$76,946,600	\$175,435,900	\$17,307,100	\$906,202,300
Plus: Additional Appropriations											
Performance Funding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	80,000,000	80,000,000
Mandated Programs	21,100,000 <sup>a</sup>	300,000 <sup>b</sup>	0 <sup>c</sup>	671,500 <sup>d</sup>	1,504,700 <sup>e</sup>	834,200 <sup>f</sup>	0	1,000,000 <sup>g</sup>	0 <sup>h</sup>	-- NA --	25,410,400
Pension Subsidy Adjustment (HB 8) <sup>i</sup>	0	0	(886,600)	(54,800)	(501,200)	(341,300)	0	(355,300)	(89,700)	-- NA --	(2,228,900)
Debt Service <sup>j</sup>	17,338,500	6,767,000	8,464,000	870,000	5,434,000	4,189,500	5,407,500	6,360,000	12,487,500	-- NA --	67,318,000
2023-24 FCCR Budget General Fund (HB 1/FCCR)	\$303,669,300	\$134,223,800	\$81,901,300	\$28,690,800	\$49,762,400	\$51,707,100	\$57,655,000	\$83,951,300	\$187,833,700	\$97,307,100	\$1,076,701,800
Dollar Change from Baseline <sup>(1)</sup>	\$38,438,500	\$7,067,000	\$7,577,400	\$1,486,700	\$6,437,500	\$4,682,400	\$5,407,500	\$7,004,700	\$12,397,800	\$80,000,000	\$170,499,500
Percent Change from Baseline <sup>(1)</sup>	14.5%	5.6%	10.2%	5.5%	14.9%	10.0%	10.3%	9.1%	7.1%	-- NA --	18.8%

<sup>a</sup> Additional appropriations of \$4,145,500 each year of the biennium for pay increases for UK extension agents, \$1,954,500 each year to support program increases for UK's Agricultural Experiment Station, \$5,000,000 each year to support matching requirements on federal grants to UK's Center for Applied Energy Research, and \$10,000,000 each year to support the Markey Cancer Center's pursuit of Comprehensive Cancer Center designation.

<sup>b</sup> Additional appropriations of \$300,000 each year of the biennium for the UofL Center for Military Connected Students and \$100,000 in fiscal year 2022-23 for dental equipment to support UofL clinical rotations in rural areas.

<sup>c</sup> Additional appropriation of \$200,000 in fiscal year 2022-23 for the EKU Center for the Arts.

<sup>d</sup> Additional appropriation of \$671,500 in the current year (i.e., 2021-22) and in each year of the upcoming biennium to meet a federal grant matching requirement for KSU's land-grant program.

<sup>e</sup> Additional appropriations of \$1,504,700 each year of the biennium for the MoSU Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics and \$250,000 in fiscal year 2022-23 for MoSU to erect a second satellite dish.

<sup>f</sup> Additional appropriations of \$834,200 each year of the biennium for the Breathitt Veterinary Center at MuSU.

<sup>g</sup> Additional appropriations of \$1,000,000 each year of the biennium for the Kentucky Mesonet at WKU.

<sup>h</sup> Additional appropriation of \$1,800,000 in fiscal year 2022-23 to support KCTCS aviation programs at Western Kentucky Community and Technical College (i.e., \$900,000) and Madisonville Community College (i.e., \$900,000).

<sup>i</sup> The FCCR budget notwithstanding KRS 61.5991(6)(b)1.a. and b. to maintain pension subsidies for KERS participating institutions at 2021-22 levels in fiscal year 2022-23, and reduces those subsidies by 10% in fiscal year 2023-24.

<sup>j</sup> Debt service on state bonds to support asset preservation and new capital construction projects at every public postsecondary institution during the upcoming biennium.

Council on Postsecondary Education  
Allocation of Bond Funds for Asset Preservation Projects  
2022-2024 Free Conference Committee Report Budget (22 RS, HB 1/FCCR)

Institution	Allocation Method		FCCR Appropriations		Biennial Totals
	Fiscal 2019-20 Category I and II E&G Square Feet	Percent of Total	Fiscal 2022-23	Fiscal 2023-24	
UK	6,461,866	22.03%	\$77,098,000	\$77,098,000	\$154,196,000
UofL	3,431,623	11.70%	40,943,000	40,943,000	81,886,000
EKU	2,296,796	7.83%	27,403,000	27,403,000	54,806,000
KSU	673,771	2.30%	8,039,000	8,039,000	16,078,000
MoSU	1,476,020	5.03%	17,611,000	17,611,000	35,222,000
MuSU	1,977,019	6.74%	23,588,000	23,588,000	47,176,000
NKU	1,960,980	6.68%	23,397,000	23,397,000	46,794,000
WKU	2,852,999	9.73%	34,040,000	34,040,000	68,080,000
KCTCS	8,203,785	27.97% <sup>1</sup>	89,631,000	89,631,000	179,262,000
Totals	29,334,859	100.00%	\$341,750,000	\$341,750,000	\$683,500,000

<sup>1</sup> KCTCS's full share of \$700.0 million in Asset Preservation Funds (\$195,762,000) was reduced \$16,500,000. A capital project to renovate the occupational and technical building at Elizabethtown CTC was funded at \$16,500,000 in Bond Funds.

#### Required Match for Institutions

Institution	Percent	2022-23	2023-24	Totals
UK	30%	\$23,130,000	\$23,130,000	\$46,260,000
UofL	30%	12,283,000	12,283,000	24,566,000
EKU	15%	4,111,000	4,111,000	8,222,000
KSU	15%	1,206,000	1,206,000	2,412,000
MoSU	15%	2,642,000	2,642,000	5,284,000
MuSU	15%	3,539,000	3,539,000	7,078,000
NKU	15%	3,510,000	3,510,000	7,020,000
WKU	15%	5,106,000	5,106,000	10,212,000
KCTCS	15%	13,445,000	13,445,000	26,890,000
Totals		\$68,972,000	\$68,972,000	\$137,944,000

ATTACHMENT D

Council on Postsecondary Education  
 Allocation of Bond Funds for New Construction and Renovation  
 2022-2024 Free Conference Committee Report Budget (22 RS, HB 1/FCCR)

Institution	Capital Project	FCCR Appropriations	
		Fiscal 2022-23	Fiscal 2023-24
UK	Construct Health Education Building	\$0	\$250,000,000
UofL	Construct Multidisciplinary Engineering Building	0	65,000,000
EKU	Construct New Model Laboratory School	0	90,000,000
EKU	Renovate Alumni Coliseum	0	31,350,000
KSU	No individual projects funded	0	0
MoSU	Construct Science and Engineering Building	0	98,000,000
MuSU	Construct School of Nursing and Health Professional Building	0	45,500,000
NKU	Expand Hermann Science Center	0	79,900,000
WKU	Construct New Gordon Ford College of Business	0	74,400,000
KCTCS	Construct Student/Classroom - BCTC Newtown	0	52,200,000
KCTCS	Expand Leitchfield Campus - Elizabethtown CTC	0	9,000,000
KCTCS	Renovate Occupational Technical Building Phase I - ECTC	0	16,500,000
Total New Construction and Renovation		\$0	\$811,850,000

Note: The figures above do not include appropriations for Asset Preservation contained in ATTACHMENT C.



## 2022-2024 – CAMPUS OPERATIONS

Campus Operations	CPE Request		FCCR Budget	
	2022-23	2023-24	2022-23	2023-24
Base Funding	\$906.2	\$906.2	\$906.2	\$906.2
Performance Funding – Added to Existing Base (\$17.3 M in 2021-22)	67.5	90.0	80.0	80.0
Maintain KERS Pension Subsidy at Current Year Level (\$22.1 M in 2021-22)	0.0	0.0	0.0	(2.2)
Mandated Program Funding	0.7	0.7	27.7	27.2
<b>Additional Investment</b>	<b>\$68.2</b>	<b>\$90.7</b>	<b>\$107.7</b>	<b>\$104.9</b>
Increase Over Base Funding	7.5%	10.0%	11.9%	11.6%

*Dollars in millions*



## 2022-2024 – CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Capital Investment	CPE Request		FCCR Budget	
	2022-23	2023-24	2022-23	2023-24
Asset Preservation	\$350.0	\$350.0	\$341.8	\$341.8
- Required Campus Match	50% match		30% for UK & UofL 15% all others	
Construction and Renovation Projects	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$31.4	\$780.5
Upgrade KY Regional Optical Network	\$1.0	\$0.0	\$1.0	\$0.0

*Dollars in millions*



## 2022-2024 – TRUST FUNDS

Trust Funds	CPE Request		FCCR Budget	
	2022-23	2023-24	2022-23	2023-24
Bucks for Brains - Research Universities	\$25.0	\$25.0	\$0.0	\$30.0
Bucks for Brains - Comprehensives	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$0.0	\$10.0
Workforce Development Trust Fund	\$2.2	\$4.5	\$2.2	\$0.0

*Dollars in millions*



## **2022-2024 AGENCY BUDGET HIGHLIGHT**

The FCCR Budget provides:

- \$10.0 M in Federal Funds for a Healthcare Workforce Initiative, administered by CPE
- 8% COLA for state employees, starting July 1, 2022
- 2023-24 COLA depends on the results of a Personnel Cabinet report on state employee compensation



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A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING

**Governor Andy Beshear**

for his service to postsecondary education in the Commonwealth.

WHEREAS, from the day he was elected, Governor Andy Beshear has put education first; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's leadership is critical to Kentucky postsecondary institutions' capacity to prepare our students to compete in today's economy and provide opportunities for every citizen to thrive; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's actions during the 2022 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly and the 2022-2024 state budget are a reflection of the value of higher education to our commonwealth and the unique role it plays in economic development and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, these efforts will empower Kentucky colleges and universities to remain affordable for students, enhance their campus infrastructure, and drive life-changing research in health care, agriculture, manufacturing and more; and

WHEREAS, the Council will continue to work to support colleges and universities to ensure the state's investment in higher education pays dividends for the commonwealth for decades to come; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council on Postsecondary Education does hereby adopt this resolution April 15, 2022, expressing its sincerest gratitude and appreciation for the dedication and efforts of Governor Andy Beshear to help provide the best education possible for all of Kentucky's students.

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Lucas Mentzer, Chair

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Aaron Thompson, Ph.D., President





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A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING

## **The Members of the Kentucky General Assembly**

for their service to postsecondary education in the Commonwealth.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly's support is critical to Kentucky postsecondary institutions' capacity to prepare our students to compete in today's economy and provide opportunities for every citizen to thrive; and

WHEREAS, the 2022-2024 state budget is a reflection of the value of higher education to our commonwealth and the unique role it plays in economic development and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, this budget will empower Kentucky colleges and universities to remain affordable for students, enhance their campus infrastructure, and drive life-changing research in health care, agriculture, manufacturing and more; and

WHEREAS, the Council will continue to work to support colleges and universities to ensure the state's investment in higher education pays dividends for the commonwealth for decades to come; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council on Postsecondary Education does hereby adopt this resolution April 15, 2022, expressing its sincerest gratitude and appreciation for the dedication and efforts of the Kentucky General Assembly in securing funding to help provide the best education possible for all of Kentucky's students.

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Lucas Mentzer, Chair

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Aaron Thompson, Ph.D., President

**TITLE:** Report from the Executive Committee

**DESCRIPTION:** The following is a summary of the Committee's in March and April 2022.

**PRESENTER:** Lucas Mentzer, Chair of Executive Committee

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The Executive Committee met on March 3, 2022. Below is a summary of their work.

- Received an update on the 2022 Legislative Session.
- Discussed the annual CPE President review process. The Committee agreed that the annual review will include a self-evaluation by the President reflecting on performance on key indicators included in the strategic agenda as well as goals set by the committee and confirmed by the board. The Executive Committee will have a conversation with the president to discuss the self-evaluation and determine goals for the coming year. The review should take place in the spring of each year. In years the Committee determines it necessary, an in-depth evaluation will take place in which multiple groups and individuals would be engaged in providing input through a written survey or interviews. The President also will complete a self-evaluation as part of the process.

The Executive Committee will meet on April 14, 2022, prior to the CPE Work Session. On the agenda is the approval of the 2022-23 Meeting Dates, and the CPE President Annual Review. A report of proceedings will be presented during the April 15 meeting.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for June 16, 2022, unless a need arises to schedule a meeting prior to that date.

**TITLE:** 2022-23 Council Meetings

**DESCRIPTION:** The Executive Committee recommends the Council approve the proposed meeting dates for 2022-23 academic year.

**PRESENTER:** Lucas Mentzer, Chair of the Executive Committee

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### **COMMITTEE REVIEW & APPROVAL**

The Executive Committee reviewed and approved the proposed meeting dates for 2022-23 academic year at its April 14, 2022, meeting.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Per KRS 164.011(9), the Council is required to meet quarterly, but may meet more upon the call of the chair. In order to conduct its business efficiently, the Council has typically met five times per year. The following dates are proposed for the 2021-22 academic year:

- Sept 19-20, 2022 (M-Tu) *\*Will coincide with Trusteeship Symposium*
- Nov 17-18, 2022 (Th-F)
- Jan 26-27, 2023 (Th-F)
- Mar 30-31, 2023 (Th-F)
- Jun 8-9, 2023 (Th-F)

Meeting dates of the standing committees will be finalized and approved at a later date.



# PRESIDENT'S EVALUATION

## Key Accomplishments

April 15, 2022



Affordability



Transitions



Success



Equity



Talent



Value

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



### AFFORDABILITY

- Increases in state financial aid programs
- Average tuition increase of 1.2% in 2021-22
- KY Students' Right to Know website
- Go!vember campaign, FAFSA February, FAFSA Tik Tok Challenge
- Launched Affordable Learning KY promoting open educational resources

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



### TRANSITIONS

- Commonwealth Education Continuum
- \$5M for summer bridge grants to campuses
- Launched KY Advising Academy
- Awarded Commonwealth Educator Diversity grants to 3 campuses
- Published dual credit research series
- Readiness & transition services through GEAR UP KY

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



**SUCCESS**

- KY Student Success Collaborative
- Adult Learner Attainment Academy
- Statewide student mental health initiative
- KY Graduate Profile & 10 essential employability skills
- KnowHow2Transfer portal
- Cultural competency certification process

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



### TALENT

- \$10M for new Healthcare Workforce Initiative
- \$40M for Bucks for Brains
- \$2.2M for KCTCS Workforce Development Trust Fund
- Hired first Assoc. VP for Workforce & Economic Development
- Developed Multi-State Postsecondary Report



## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



### VALUE

- Historic funding increases for higher education
- Higher Education Matters statewide campaign
- Return on Investment research reports
- CPE named Government Partner of the Year
- Increased media presence, followers and subscribers

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



### OPERATIONS

- KSU assessment & advocacy
- New statewide strategic agenda & accountability system
- Coordinated/supported campus COVID response & recovery efforts
- Expanded offices & conference facility
- KPEDS redesign





## Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

**Andy Beshear**  
Governor

100 Airport Road  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601  
Phone: 502-573-1555  
<http://www.cpe.ky.gov>

**Aaron Thompson, Ph.D.**  
President

April 7, 2022

Lucas Mentzer, Chair  
Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education  
4616 Honeycomb Trail  
Lexington, KY 40509

Dear Chair Mentzer:

I am submitting this annual report as the basis of my evaluation and a review of the agency's key accomplishments from January 2021 through March 2022. I have organized these items according to the five priorities of the statewide strategic agenda, with an additional section to capture achievements in agency operations.

I am extremely proud of what CPE has been able to accomplish this year through the dedicated efforts of a committed, capable staff. The 2022 legislative session resulted in historic funding increases for higher education, not only in General Fund appropriations to the institutions, but also in state financial aid, efforts to increase Kentucky's healthcare pipeline and other strategic areas. This outcome would not have been possible without countless behind-the-scenes conversations and communications that have enhanced CPE's credibility and influence within the General Assembly.

This year also saw the culmination of a year-long, collaborative effort to produce a new statewide strategic agenda. The resulting publication, "Higher Education Matters," outlines the primary objectives and strategies the system will pursue from now until the year 2030, as well as a new set of key performance metrics and goals. This is one of the strongest agendas CPE has ever developed, and I feel confident that it will lead to a decade of accelerated innovation and growth for Kentucky higher education.

I am enthusiastic about what the current year holds, and I look forward to seeing the results of the Council's increased investments in data and research; workforce and economic development; P-20 policy; student success initiatives and diversity, equity and inclusion.

I hope you'll take some time to review this report in detail. I look forward to our discussion, and I am grateful for your continued confidence and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aaron Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Aaron Thompson, Ph.D.

cc: Council on Postsecondary Education membership

# Council on Postsecondary Education Organizational Review

January 2021-March 2022

The 2022-30 Strategic Agenda for Postsecondary Education sets an overarching goal that 60% of Kentucky’s working-age population will have earned a postsecondary degree or credential by 2030. The 60x30KY goal is the foundation for the priorities, objectives and strategies of the agenda, and it guides the work of this agency. The following tables provide high-level actions and outcomes for 2021 and the first several months of 2022, organized by the five priority areas of the new agenda (Affordability, Transitions, Success, Talent and Value). We have included a final area for the purposes of this evaluation – state leadership – which includes key areas of the agency’s work not immediately reflected in the agenda.

## AFFORDABILITY: Ensure higher education is affordable for all Kentuckians.

What have we done?	What are the results?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Worked closely with campuses, the Governor’s Office and members of the General Assembly to achieve historic increases in higher education funding during the 2022 legislative session to strengthen programs and mitigate costs to students and families.</li> <li>Developed and negotiated <a href="#">tuition setting</a> for academic years 2021-22 and 2022-23, holding increases near historic lows while also helping campuses replenish revenue losses due to the pandemic.</li> <li>Advocated for increases in state need-based financial aid for lower income students during the 2022 General Assembly.</li> <li>Developed and launched the Kentucky <a href="#">Students’ Right to Know</a> web portal in partnership with KYSTATS. This first-of-its-kind, comprehensive, interactive digital tool helps students understand college costs and average debt levels for all academic programs.</li> <li>Produced analysis and policy recommendations on topics related to higher education costs, debt and student aid to help shape policy and programs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Historic funding increases for higher education approved during the 2022 legislative session are reported throughout this organizational review. Increases to student financial aid programs are highlighted on this page; see page 6 for new funding supporting workforce and economic development initiatives, and page 8 for information on new funds supporting operating and facilities.</li> <li>2021’s tuition setting process included multiple year tuition rates to help students/families better financially prepare for college.</li> <li>Tuition increases for 2021-22 averaged 1.2% across the system. Only one institution elected to increase its rate the full 2% allowed in a single year, and the approved policy only allows a 3% total increase over two years (2021-22 and 2022-23).</li> <li>The General Assembly funded a significant increase in state student aid programs, increasing the maximum CAP grant award for financially needy students to \$5,300 (up from \$2,900) at four-year institutions, and \$2,500 (up from \$2,200) at two-year institutions.</li> </ul>

What have we done?	What are the results?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negotiated a new Key Performance Indicator in the state accountability system to help monitor unmet need after after grants, scholarships and expected family contributions are factored in.</li> <li>Launched <a href="#">Affordable Learning Kentucky (ALKY)</a>, a collaboration of Kentucky campuses focusing on expanding the availability and use of low- and/or no-cost, high-quality educational resources.</li> <li>In partnership with KHEAA and other state agencies, hosted <a href="#">GO!vember</a> and promoted FAFSA February, campaigns designed to inform Kentucky high school students and their families about the financial aid application process and how to pay for college.</li> <li>Conducted the <a href="#">FAFSA for the Future</a> TikTok Challenge, a public awareness campaign to spread the word about the importance of FAFSA completion to counter a recent decline in applications.</li> <li>Provided targeted FAFSA support and outreach to GEAR UP high school seniors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional funding for financial aid was provided for Early Childhood scholarships, dual credit scholarships and a new Innovative Scholarship Pilot Project, to be developed in partnership with CPE.</li> <li>Average undergraduate student debt levels at public campuses have remained level over the past four years; it was \$27,233 in 2019-20 (the latest year of data available).</li> <li>Affordable Learning Kentucky has led to Kentucky’s participation in <a href="#">Open Education Week</a>, AAC&amp;U’s inaugural <a href="#">Institute on Open Educational Resources</a>, and the <a href="#">Open Education Network</a>, with the goal of providing more high-quality, low-cost educational resources to college students.</li> <li>The Go!vember campaign resulted in the creation of a <a href="#">student resource hub</a> that will continue to serve as a one-stop shop for guidance on completing the FAFSA, applying for scholarships, enrolling in dual credit programs and more.</li> <li>While Kentucky like many other states saw a drop in FAFSA completion in 2020-21, Kentucky is currently running even with the national FAFSA completion rate of high school seniors of 44% for 2021-22 (ranking us 19<sup>th</sup> in the nation).</li> <li>Kentucky’s campuses continue to implement <a href="#">innovative strategies</a> to lower costs and student debt, including tuition guarantees, last dollar scholarships, debt forgiveness programs, micro-loans and grants, reallocation of merit aid to need-based aid, among other strategies.</li> </ul>

## Transitions: Ensure more students transition to college prepared to succeed.

What have we done?	What are the results?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiated and co-led, with the Lt. Governor and Commissioner of Education, the <a href="#">Commonwealth Education Continuum</a> (CEC) a P-20 initiative to begin statewide conversations and actions with P-12, higher education and workforce leaders to strengthen Kentucky's education pipeline.</li> <li>Secured \$5 million dollars in GEER II and ARP funding to award and administer <a href="#">summer bridge program grants</a> to Kentucky campuses to provide academic, social and emotional support for incoming freshmen and sophomores.</li> <li>Secured \$4 million dollars in federal funding to launch the <a href="#">Kentucky Advising Academy (KAA)</a>, which will increase the capacity of high school staff and communities to effectively provide college and career advising and support to students through their transition to college or work.</li> <li>In partnership with KYSTATS and KDE, began the development of a one-stop Kentucky web portal to provide college and career navigation tools, guidance and resources. The portal will launch later this year.</li> <li>Created and led the Academic Readiness Workgroup, which developed statewide indicators for academic readiness to be implemented in fall 2022.</li> <li>Awarded <a href="#">Commonwealth Educator Diversity Program</a> (CEDP) grants to three universities to support programs designed to expand the number of K-12 teachers in Kentucky from underrepresented populations.</li> <li>Provided 41,657 hours of college readiness and transition services and support to 6,396 <a href="#">GEAR UP Kentucky</a> (GUK) students in grades 7, 8, and 12, as well as the first year of college.</li> <li>Provided 768 GUK family members with 227 hours of advising and support and 33 school administrators/teachers with 286 hours of GUK-hosted or funded professional development.</li> <li>Collaborated with the Kentucky Student Voice Team to conduct <a href="#">a statewide survey</a> about the impact of COVID on students' college planning, experiences and challenges.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The CEC has engaged over 200 Kentucky citizens in creating recommendations and actions to improve outcomes for students by focusing on early postsecondary opportunities, successful transitions to postsecondary education, the educator workforce and diversity.</li> <li>As a result of CEC findings and recommendations, CPE, in partnership with KDE, piloted a notification that outlined important postsecondary transition steps to high school seniors meeting minimum admission criteria for public postsecondary institutions.</li> <li><a href="#">Undergraduate enrollment</a> has fallen over the last two years, largely due to challenges related to the pandemic. From fall 2020 to fall 2021, undergraduate enrollment decreased by 1.6%. However, this is well below the national decline of a 3.5%. Undergraduate enrollment for underrepresented minoritized students (URM) fell only slightly, by 0.5%. Over the past 5 years, URM undergraduate enrollment has increased 8.4%.</li> <li>The on-to-college rate for recent Kentucky high school graduates has continued to decline and remains a concern. The rate fell 1.5 percentage points in 2020-21 to 56.6% (includes students who attend in-state and out-of-state institutions). Increasing this rate remains a priority.</li> <li>The Advising Academy soon will provide free comprehensive professional learning and resources centered on postsecondary advising for school counselors, Family Resource/Youth Service Center (FRYSC) coordinators and professional school staff.</li> <li>CPE's Summer Bridge Program grants provided funding to 21 Kentucky colleges and universities during the summer and fall of 2021 for programming to help transition students to college, as well as providing social and emotional resources and academic and financial advising.</li> </ul>



What have we done?	What are the results?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Released the <a href="#">second report</a> in a three-part dual credit research series that showed students who took dual credit courses before enrolling at KCTCS were more likely to earn higher grades and complete credentials.</li> <li>With EMSI, released <a href="#">a study</a> highlighting the growing teacher workforce shortage. The findings indicate that Kentucky needs to increase diversity in the education workforce to better reflect the state's minoritized populations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Through the work of GEAR UP KY, 50% of participating high schools improved their high school graduation rate, and 75% of GUK high schools improved their college application rates in 2020-21.</li> <li>Work with GUK students and families has led to the development of an online postsecondary transition readiness course for GUK high school students aligned to state standards.</li> </ul>

**SUCCESS: Ensure more students earn high-quality degrees and credentials.**

What have we done?	What are the results?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Created and launched the <a href="#">Kentucky Student Success Collaborative</a> (KYSSC), the first center in the country that works with both two- and four-year institutions to connect them with business leaders and policy makers and support the development of strategies to enhance student success.</li> <li>Established the Kentucky Adult Learner Attainment Academy, a year-long effort to understand the biggest challenges facing adult learners in Kentucky and provide a roadmap to improve their educational outcomes.</li> <li>Concluded KY's participation over the past 18 months with <a href="#">Degrees When Due</a>, a national initiative focused on helping campuses support adult learners.</li> <li>Implemented a statewide <a href="#">mental health initiative</a>, which includes Mental Health First Aid training for faculty, staff and students. The initiative also provided access to TAO Connect, an online self-help platform, for all Kentucky students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Despite significant challenges related to COVID, the <a href="#">total number of undergraduate degrees and credentials</a> awarded in KY decreased by just 0.5% in the 2020-21 academic year. Bucking national trends, undergraduate degrees awarded to underrepresented minoritized students jumped 2.3%.</li> <li>Certificate growth – essential to Kentucky's workforce needs – has increased 20.4%. Undergraduate degrees in STEM+H fields increased 13.8% (increasing 36% for URM students).</li> <li>Graduation rates at our public universities have increased 1.8 percentage points from 2019-2020 to 58.2 in 2020-2021. The rate for URM students rose 4.3 percentage points.</li> <li>Graduation rates at KCTCS increased 2.7 percentage points - from 37.7% in 2019-20 to 40.4% in 2020-2021. The rate for URM students rose by 4.3 percentage points during that same time period.</li> </ul>

## What have we done?

- Created the [Kentucky Graduate Profile](#), a set of career-focused learning outcomes ensuring every graduate receives a high-quality, relevant, and equitable degree necessary for success in life and work. CPE is supporting its adoption through the Graduate Profile Academy.
- Awarded and managed Quality Matters (QM) certification grants to several campuses. QM certification demonstrates a commitment to quality course design and continuous improvement.
- Launched the upgraded Kentucky transfer portal ([KnowHow2Transfer](#)) to allow students to input college credit from multiple institutions and learn how those credits apply to their desired degree plan/major.
- The transfer portal also allows students to identify career fields aligned with their goals. The fields are simultaneously aligned with programs at Kentucky public institutions.
- Managed the evaluation of annual Diversity, Equity and Inclusion reports of all public universities and KCTCS colleges.
- Hosted the [third cohort](#) of the Academic Leadership Development Institute (ALDI), with 17 faculty and staff participants from diverse backgrounds.
- Launched the [Cultural Competency Credential Certification](#) process to review and certify programs offered by Kentucky colleges and universities that develop well-defined cultural competencies and seek to remedy both personal and organizational biases.
- Continued a strong line-up of speakers and programming through the Higher EDquity Webinar Series and hosted the 2021 virtual EDquity Symposium
- CPE joined the national [The Power of Systems](#) initiative coordinated with the National Association of System Heads, which calls for higher education systems to collaborate on ways to improve student success and reduce inequities.

## What are the results?

- Although the overall number of students transferring from KCTCS to in-state, four-year institutions has slightly decreased over the last 3 years, the percentage of AA and AS graduates who transfer to four-year institutions has increased 2.5 percentage points.
- The educational attainment level in Kentucky continues rise – to 49.4% in 2019 (most recent year available) from 42.5% in 2014. For our younger adult population (ages 25-34), our attainment level is 52.2%.
- Since its launch in the fall of 2021, the KY Student Success Collaborative has received \$675,000 Gift-in-Kind technical assistance to launch three significant initiatives: Jobs for the Future Network Demonstration Project (a 1-year initiative with 9 participating campuses); Complete College America’s Purpose First initiative (a 2-year project with 9 participating campuses); and Student Basic Needs Continuous Improvement Cycle (a 6-month initiative with 6 participating campuses).
- KYSCC also launched [Impact exChange](#) – an online knowledge and resource hub to increase collaboration across institutions and increase access to best practice resources, toolkits and advice from colleagues across the state.
- CPE’s mental health initiative has provided training for over 2,000 faculty, staff and students, and has supported student engagement in over 10,000 guided sessions and mindfulness exercises.
- The first deliverable from the Kentucky Adult Learner Academy is an audit of state financial aid programs, assessing whether their structure and administration present roadblocks for adult learners.
- All eight public universities and four KCTCS campuses are participating in the Graduate Profile Academy, and they have identified the presence and influence of the 10 Essential Skills at their institutions. Each campus team is designing an “impact project” to determine strategies to accomplish the mission of the Kentucky Graduate Profile.

What have we done?	What are the results?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CPE awarded its first cultural competency credential certification to Western Kentucky University's Inclusive Teaching Academy on January 19, 2022.</li> <li>• CPE's DEI policy and oversight have led to innovative and effective campus diversity and inclusion strategies. This in turn has led to improved enrollment, persistence, and completion among URM students, as well as increases in people of color holding leadership positions on Kentucky campuses.</li> </ul>

**Talent: Increase talent and innovation to support our communities, employers and economy.**

What have we done?	What are the results?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposed and advocated for public funds to support workforce and economic development initiatives on postsecondary campuses during the 2022 legislative session.</li> <li>• Hired CPE's first Associate Vice President for Workforce and Economic Development in July 2021 to strengthen partnerships between campuses and employers and facilitate sharing of best practices among campuses.</li> <li>• Launched the KY Students' Right to Know interactive tool which, in addition to providing information about program costs, allows students to research programs and view salaries of in-state program graduates before choosing a major.</li> <li>• Conducted <a href="#">a study</a> highlighting academic programs that prepare underrepresented minoritized (URM) and low-income students for high-demand occupations with earnings that match or exceed their peers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CPE secured \$10 million for Kentucky's first Healthcare Workforce Initiative during the 2022 legislative session to improve the pipeline of nurses and other high-need healthcare providers. The CPE-managed program will launch in July 2022.</li> <li>• For the first time since 2006-08, the state has reinvested in postsecondary research through a \$40.0 million appropriation for Bucks for Brains (\$30.0 million for research institutions and \$10.0 million for comprehensive institutions).</li> <li>• The 2022-24 state budget includes \$2.2 million in 2022-23 for the Workforce Development Trust Fund (KCTCS).</li> <li>• Degrees and credentials in KY's high-demand workforce areas (healthcare, business/IT, advanced manufacturing, transportation/logistics and construction) fell 1.6% from 2019-20 to</li> </ul>

What have we done?	What are the results?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnered with the Martin School of Public Policy and Administration <a href="#">to study</a> the growth in short-term postsecondary certificates and their impact on job placement and salaries.</li> <li>Released a series of research briefs highlighting the impact of postsecondary attainment on income, and exposing large wage gaps along <a href="#">racial</a> and <a href="#">gender</a> lines.</li> <li>In partnership with KYSTATS, developed the <a href="#">Multi-State Postsecondary Report (MSPSR)</a>, one of the first efforts in the country to share workforce data from contiguous states on recent Kentucky college graduates.</li> <li>Employed the E-Scan (CPE-created employability scan) audit tool to help several campuses inventory career preparation practices and build faculty awareness of workforce needs.</li> <li>Led a <a href="#">multi-agency effort</a> to raise the visibility and use of the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship.</li> </ul>	<p>2020-21. Despite this slight decrease, degrees in these areas have increased by 30% over the last 5 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The percent of Kentucky graduates working or pursuing additional education has remained constant over the past 5 years (around 85% for KCTCS associate graduates and 67% for public university bachelor's graduates).</li> <li>Students who graduate in the areas of Education, Health, and STEM have the highest in-state median wages 3 years post graduation. These areas now account for 45% of all completers. <a href="#">Multi-State Postsecondary Report</a></li> <li>The number of Work Ready Scholarships increased from 2,240 in 2018-19 to 3,406 in 2019-20.</li> </ul>

**VALUE: Build a broad understanding that higher education is the key to personal opportunity and Kentucky's economic growth.**

What have we done?	What are the results?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advance higher education's agenda and advocate for increased public investment in postsecondary education with key legislators to strengthen programs and mitigate costs to students.</li> <li>Testified multiple times before legislative committees during the 2021 legislative session and leading up to and during the 2022 legislative session.</li> <li>Met/spoke regularly with Governor Beshear, and developed productive working relationships with his administration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CPE's work with the Governor's office and legislature, in partnership with campus leaders, led to historic increases in funding supporting higher education during the 2022 legislative session. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$80 million in new funding for the Postsecondary Education Performance Fund in each year (\$97.3 million in total when added to the current \$17.3 million base).</li> <li>\$683.5 million for asset preservation pools (bond funded, with half of the funding available in the first year, and half in the second), with a required institutional match of 30% for research institutions and 15% for all others.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

What have we done?	What are the results?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Released the second <a href="#">KY Postsecondary Return on Investment</a> report tracking the progress and success of the Kentucky high school class of 2011.</li> <li>• Launched the new Higher Education Matters campaign, including a <a href="#">website</a> to showcase alumni videos, student and ambassador resources, a marketing toolkit with campaign assets, and statewide radio and TV ads through the Kentucky Broadcasters' Association.</li> <li>• Increased the agency's strategic communications to amplify and promote the work of the agency and the impact of higher education in Kentucky. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Developed and implemented promotions supporting the work of the agency including over 20 webinars, report releases and events.</li> <li>– Developed and distributed 12 editions of the Higher Education Matters newsletter to approximately 3,000 subscribers since January 2021.</li> <li>– Produced 31 CPE infographics of the week and distributed them through Twitter, Facebook and in our daily distribution of News Clips.</li> <li>– Overhauled CPE's website with streamlined content and improved design, and upgraded navigation and page elements to accommodate users who have physical or visual disabilities.</li> <li>– Distributed 60 news releases and statements, an increase of 25%.</li> <li>– Expanded our video services, streaming more events on YouTube, which generated more than 6,000 views.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$811.9 million for new construction or renovation projects on postsecondary campuses</li> <li>– Other appropriations to support special initiatives, pensions, and other priorities, as well as other items listed in other areas of this report.</li> <li>• These funding increases follow more modest, but still significant, increases during the <a href="#">2021 legislative session</a>.</li> <li>• President Thompson was interviewed by state and national media outlets 30 times, a 36% increase over 2020, and he was invited to provide keynote or plenary presentations at numerous major state and national conferences and events.</li> <li>• President Thompson was invited to serve on the boards of several national policy, foundation and service organizations to help advance the national college attainment agenda.</li> <li>• CPE received the prestigious <a href="#">Government Partner of the Year award</a>, part of the annual Isaac Murphy Legacy Awards recognizing individuals and organizations that advance diversity and have a positive impact on Kentucky's workforce, communities and quality of life.</li> <li>• As part of the Higher Education Matters campaign, campuses and education partners have developed action plans, promotions and events to amplify #KYHigherEDMatters messaging.</li> <li>• As a result of the increased focus on strategic communications, CPE has gained more than 1,200 subscribers, for a total of 4,142 individuals receiving at least one CPE publication.</li> </ul>

## **STATE LEADERSHIP: Strengthen CPE’s role as an effective and respected postsecondary education coordinating agency.**

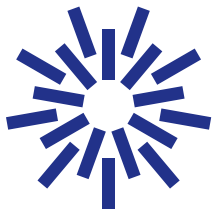
What have we done?	What are the results?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducted a comprehensive assessment of the financial condition of Kentucky State University, per the requirements of an Executive Order issued in July 2021.</li> <li>• Helped shape and strongly advocated for HB 250 during the 2022 session, legislation providing funding essential for KSU’s continuation as Kentucky’s only HBCU.</li> <li>• Developed and launched “Higher Education Matters,” Kentucky’s new statewide strategic agenda that will guide the work and priorities of higher education in Kentucky through 2030.</li> <li>• Established a new state accountability system (including key performance indicators and performance targets) aligned with the new agenda.</li> <li>• Continued the work that began in 2020 to coordinate and support higher education’s response to COVID.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regular meetings with campus presidents and other campus leaders to share information and strategies.</li> <li>- Continuous assessment of the fiscal impact of the pandemic.</li> <li>- Monitoring and reporting on federal funding supporting Kentucky campuses and students.</li> <li>- Ongoing work with the Department of Public Health to share information and develop strategies to support students.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Completed CPE’s office expansion and conference facility renovation at 100 Airport Road to accommodate staff and agency responsibilities.</li> <li>• Redesigned and updated the Kentucky Postsecondary Data System (KPEDS), the backbone system for student-level higher education data in Kentucky. This was the first major update to the system in over a decade.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CPE’s review of Kentucky State University’s financial condition was widely covered by the state media, prompted numerous legislative meetings and testimony, and led to the passage of two significant KSU-related bills in the 2022 legislative session.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HB 250 provides a \$23.0 million non-interest-bearing loan for KSU in the current year (2021-22) to address financial instability due to prior year deficits and structural imbalances.</li> <li>- HB 250 also provides \$5.0 million in 2022-23 and \$10.0 million in 2023-24 to be distributed as goals and benchmarks are met in accordance with a new management improvement plan, as well as \$1.5 million to fund CPE oversight of KSU in 2022-23.</li> <li>- HB 250 also establishes a range of oversight responsibilities for CPE related to KSU’s fiscal management and program improvements, beginning in April 2022.</li> <li>- HB 265 remakes KSU’s board to help the institution shore up their financial situation and strengthen programs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• CPE’s work with the Department of Public Health resulted in an additional \$5 million in federal funding to help campuses respond to COVID costs and better support students.</li> <li>• The redesign and reboot of KPEDS has facilitated the launch of new interactive data dashboards to help guide decision making and policy development, and has expedited the fulfillment of internal/external data requests.</li> </ul>

## What have we done?

- Developed an analytics tool and screening system to evaluate the financial health of postsecondary institutions.
- Managed HR and administrative functions required of a state agency with 76 full and part-time staff (23 of those support GEAR UP KY), and a \$7,205,700 FY 22 budget for operations and strategic initiatives.
- Managed the statewide Kentucky Virtual Library (KYVL), a consortium of nearly 350 Kentucky libraries and institutions, and the Kentucky Digital Library, a platform housing more than 1.2 million items in 40 collections to enhance scholarship, research and lifelong learning.
- Managed Kentucky's participation in the Academic Common Market, allowing KY residents to receive in-state tuition for programs not provided in Kentucky.
- Led Kentucky's non-public licensure functions and managed Kentucky's participation in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) and NC-SARA requirements.
- Provided cultural competence professional development for staff in agencies across the state, including KCTCS, the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, the Green River Region Educational Cooperative, and the Kentucky Department of Education.

## What are the results?

- Results of the FY21 agency audit showed no deficiencies or material weaknesses and a fair presentation of financial data. The FY22 audit will be available for board review in January 2023.
- KYVL had more than 97 million KYVL database searches and 72,000 items transported via KYVL courier in AY 20-21.
- The library's shared services and collaborative purchasing result in savings of approximately \$20 million annually for postsecondary education in Kentucky.
- Through CPE's licensure functions, CPE renewed 78 licenses and approved 2 new licenses; approved 174 new program applications and 142 program modifications; audited faculty in 132 new programs; issued 27 new conditional licenses in 2021, with 10 of those satisfying conditions.
- The licensure team fielded thousands of inquiries from current and former students, institutions, attorneys, and agencies regarding licensure functions and institutions operating in Kentucky.



# Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities

## News highlights

### AIKCU to distribute \$450K in pandemic grants

AIKCU, in cooperation with CPE, will distribute Kentucky Department of Public Health-funded grants of up to \$25,000 per AIKCU institution to address the ongoing pandemic.

### Seven AIKCU members awarded summer bridge program grants

**Asbury University, Bellarmine University, Centre College, Kentucky Wesleyan College, Spalding University, Union College, and University of Pikeville** are among the 25 Kentucky institutions awarded summer Bridge program grants by CPE.

### Midway University President named to SACSCOC Board

**Midway University** president Dr. John Marsden was recently named to the SACSCOC Board of Trustees. Dr. Marsden joins **UPIKE** president Dr. Burton Webb in representing AIKCU institutions among the SACSCOC Kentucky delegation.

### Asbury University Provost appointed to EPSB

**Asbury University** provost Dr. Timothy Wooster has been appointed to serve as the independent college chief academic officer representative on the Kentucky Education and Professional Standards Board (EPSB).



## Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities

by the numbers



independent, nonprofit, SACSCOC-accredited Kentucky colleges and universities



13,000+ degrees annually



2020-21 degrees, source: KY Council on Postsecondary Education

■ Undergraduate ■ Graduate

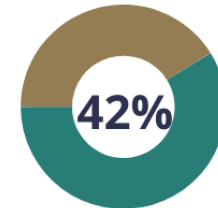
# 55,000 STUDENTS

31,000 UNDERGRADUATES



1 in 5 Kentucky bachelor's degrees are awarded by AIKCU institutions

AIKCU's record 5,000+ bachelor's degrees in 2020-21 represented 22% of bachelor's reported by Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

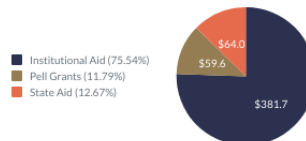


of undergraduates receive Pell Grants

(13,000 Pell recipients in 20-21)

# \$1=\$3

AIKCU institutions provide \$3 in institutional aid for every \$1 in government-funded student aid.



Aid to AIKCU students (\$ millions)

Source: IPEDS Finance, FY 2020

# \$1 billion

in-state economic activity in Kentucky

## 8,000 employees

[aikcu.org](http://aikcu.org)





# CPE REPORT

Eastern Kentucky University News for the Council on Postsecondary Education



## EKU EXCEEDS \$50 MILLION CAMPAIGN GOAL

The Make No Little Plans campaign, the largest and most comprehensive fundraising effort in the history of Eastern Kentucky University, has surpassed its \$50 million goal having secured more than \$54 million in gifts as of February 4, 2022. The campaign officially began in 2015 with a public launch in 2019.

The Make No Little Plans campaign focuses on support for academic excellence, student success and campus revitalization. As a direct result of the campaign, academic programs and scholarships have been strengthened. The ECU Foundation's endowment, funding student scholarships, grew from \$60 million at the start of the campaign in 2015 to more than \$92 million in 2021. Also since the start of the campaign, the number of students receiving Foundation scholarships has more than doubled to now nearly 2,000.

Donor-funded campus revitalization projects have included the addition of the Noel Reading Porch to the ECU Library, an addition and major renovation of the Jack Ison Sports Performance Center, a fountain in the Carloftis Garden and the Berman Center for Professional Sales. Projects such as these enhance the "essential Eastern experience," said ECU President Dr. David McFaddin.

"The Make No Little Plans campaign was the most ambitious in our university history, and it issued a challenge to change lives," McFaddin said. "Because of donors who answered the call, this campaign is having a profound impact on our students."

Throughout the campaign, numerous donors supported the development of specific programs and campus spaces. In total, more than 10,000 alumni, faculty and staff, community members and friends made commitments to ECU.

Indicating a continuation of the Make No Little Plans campaign, McFaddin said, "At Eastern, hitting the goal is never enough. Excellence is always about pushing to do more, and this campaign has so much more to accomplish."

Vice President for Development and Alumni Engagement Betina Gardner added, "When we launched the public phase of our campaign just a few years ago, we had no idea of the challenges to come as a result of the pandemic. However, our giving community responded with exceptional generosity and care for our beloved ECU. We are overwhelmed with gratitude and excited to see the perpetual impact and engagement of donors as a result of this campaign."

## PARTNERSHIP HELPS STUDENTS PRACTICE HEALTHCARE SKILLS

Providing opportunities for hands-on training, real-world experiences and applied research in numerous disciplines is the goal of a unique partnership between Marshall Pediatric Therapy and Eastern Kentucky University.

EKU students and faculty will be able to observe pediatric therapy with clinicians, interact with therapeutic equipment and assessments, participate in internships and engage in faculty-led research at a newly-opened clinic located in Richmond.

The collaboration was made possible because of the vision of ECU alumna Pam Marshall, founder and executive director of Marshall Pediatric Therapy, who desired to locate a clinic in Richmond, and a \$25,000 grant from the Board of Regents Innovation Fund awarded to Dr. Dana Bush, chair of the Department of Applied Human Sciences.

Bush said the funds purchased specific technology and gross motor equipment that students will use during

therapy observations. The Innovation Fund grant allowed ECU to provide a great deal of input into the development of the clinic.

“Facilitating the translation of ideas into reality is why the Board established the Innovation Fund,” said ECU President Dr. David McFaddin. “Our partnership with Marshall Pediatric Therapy is a prime example of how we can work together with alumni to create dynamic opportunities for students and faculty.”

During their work at the clinic, students may learn about direct patient care, typical child development milestones, health care policy, professional communication and much more. Students from a variety of disciplines will benefit from this partnership, including occupational therapy, child and family studies, nursing, communication disorders, social work, psychology, education, dietetics, athletic training and sign language.

## FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR EARNS DESIGNATED PILOT EXAMINER STATUS

Wayne Sherman, who serves as the assistant chief flight instructor and safety manager for the ECU aviation program, earned his DPE status in 2021 after nearly a year of intense interviews, training and monitoring by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). He is one of only 10 DPEs serving the state of Kentucky.

Designation is provided to flight instructors who teach and evaluate other pilots. Sherman represents the FAA in administering oral and in-flight exams that issue pilot licenses and ratings of active pilots. To keep the designation, he will undergo annual training sessions, meetings and continued monitoring of his aviation skills and knowledge.

“As the only four-year flight school in Kentucky and a

leading aviation program nationally, we are committed to ensuring the ECU aviation program has the necessary equipment, professional development and staff to continue to elevate our flight program,” said ECU President David McFaddin.

Sherman began flying in 1979 and became a flight instructor in 1984. He has served as line pilot for various charter companies, a chief pilot for numerous charter operations and the chief pilot for a Chicago-based corporate flight department. Additionally, he served as a full-time firefighter and paramedic for 20 years.

He began at ECU in 2019 after retiring from the corporate pilot life and moving to Kentucky.

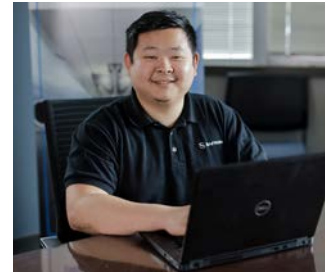


# KCTCS GOOD NEWS REPORT

APRIL 2022

## KCTCS EXPANDS FUNDING

FOR BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY SUPPORT



The Kentucky Community & Technical College System (KCTCS) TRAINS program has increased funding support for qualifying companies. TRAINS offsets the cost of customized training for incumbent worker upskilling, pre-employment training, assessments and apprenticeship programs. KCTCS has expanded financial assistance now offsetting 75 percent (up from 50 percent) of a business's costs associated with developing tailored talent pipeline initiatives. With funding established by the Kentucky General Assembly, KCTCS is proud to deliver TRAINS-backed projects to help businesses across the Commonwealth equip their current and potential employees with the tools and on-the-job experience to succeed at work and beyond.

"KCTCS knows firsthand the transformative effect customized training has on companies of every size, their employees and families, as well as on our entire economy," Dr. Paul Czarapata, KCTCS President, said. "At a time when businesses, employees and our students are facing rising costs, TRAINS will lower the cost of empowering, retaining and recruiting top talent – and, in the process, open doors to greater opportunities for Kentucky workers and businesses alike."

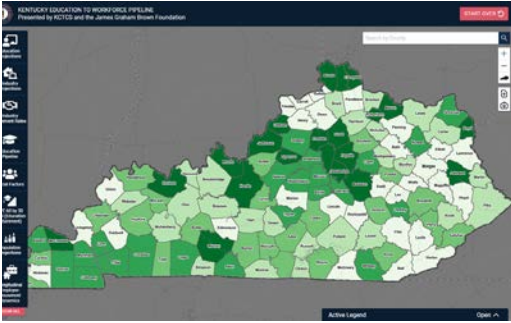
Since its inception in 2014, TRAINS has invested \$29,893,835 dollars in Kentucky business accounting for 72,965 enrollments. For more information on TRAINS, please visit [kctcs.edu/workforce-solutions/](https://kctcs.edu/workforce-solutions/)



**KENTUCKY**  
COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL  
**COLLEGE SYSTEM**

# NEW TOOL FORECASTS

## KENTUCKY WORKFORCE AND EDUCATION NEEDS



The Kentucky Community & Technical College System (KCTCS) offers a first-of-its-kind online GIS (mapping) program that visualizes, aggregates and analyzes education, workforce and socioeconomic data in every county across the Commonwealth. This tool is designed to improve the understanding of trends emerging at the intersection of education and workforce development.

The GIS tool was designed to provide clear alignment between KCTCS-offered programs, workforce needs and challenges facing Kentucky's industries to better identify and respond to ever-evolving, location specific situations.

For more information or to use the GIS tool, [systemoffice.kctcs.edu/institutional-research/education-gis/](https://systemoffice.kctcs.edu/institutional-research/education-gis/)





# GOOD NEWS

APRIL 2022

## KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT MAKING AN IMPACT AT THE STATE CAPITOL

One Kentucky State University student is making an impact during the General Assembly 2022 regular session. Savion Briggs, a sophomore political science major from Louisville, is doing big things at the College on the Hill. Briggs is an intern for the Legislative Research Committee (LRC) and served under State Representative George Brown Jr. during the regular session. “So far the experience has been amazing,” Briggs said.

Briggs said his future plans include working for a Fortune 500 company’s diversity and inclusion team while running his own social justice foundation. Soon after that, Briggs would like to put his LRC experience to work and run for political office.

Briggs is also a part of the Wells Fargo Go Far diversity mentorship. Briggs said the mentorship program is curriculum-based and targets diverse sophomore students currently attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) or Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs). The program focuses on career development, exposure to senior leadership and provides a direct connection to Wells Fargo events and opportunities.

While at Kentucky State, Briggs has wasted no time getting involved. He has served as the freshman and sophomore class president; as a member of the NAACP; as a Kentucky State University student ambassador; the Collegiate 100 vice president; the Breaking The Cycle

treasurer; the W.O.K.E. Task Force founding representative; accepted into the Thurgood Marshall College Fund 2021 Leadership Institute; a Pre-College Academy counselor; the NAACP Kentucky regent vice president; and earned a spot on the dean’s list. “Kentucky State University stood out (as a prospective school) because of its rich history,” Briggs said. “I also had heard a lot of positive things about Kentucky State growing up and found it to be the most accessible school for my educational path.”



One of his best memories at Kentucky State is having a great opportunity to mentor incoming freshmen through Pre-College Academy and showing them what it looks like to be a student and excel. “Always put your academics first,” Briggs said. “Everything else can wait. If you master time management, you’ve mastered college and life.”

## KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY TO RECEIVE \$740,000 IN GRANT FUNDING FOR AQUAPONICS PROJECT



Kentucky State University recently received approval of funding on a grant proposal titled, “Improving Phosphorus Recovery in Aquaponic Systems through Environmental Manipulation of the Plant Rhizosphere Microbiota.” The project will run for four years with total funding of \$740,000. The proposal was submitted by the School of Aquaculture and Aquatic Sciences, in the College of Agriculture, Community, and the Sciences. The highly competitive grant program is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), and Agricultural Microbiome in Plant Systems and Natural Resources. “With the increasing interest in aquaponics in Kentucky, I am thrilled that USDA is supporting this research project which will greatly benefit our stakeholders in this state and beyond,” said Dr. Kirk Pomper, dean of the College of Agriculture, Community, and the Sciences and director of the Land Grant Program.

Dr. Jim Tidwell is the project investigator, and Janelle Hager is the lead author on the proposal with the assistance of Leigh Anne Bright. The project will also involve close cooperation with Dr. Carlos Rodrigue-Lopez and Dr. Mark Coyne of the University of Kentucky. “Agriculture is increasingly a technology driven enterprise. We see several examples of that right now in Kentucky,” said Dr. Tidwell, professor and chair of the School of Aquaculture and Aquatic Sciences. “As we try to feed more people with limited resources, and to bring the means of production closer to the consumer, controlled environment systems like aquaponics will become even more important in the future. The funding in this grant will allow us to better understand the bacterial transformations essential in these simple, yet complex systems, allowing even greater resource efficiencies as we move forward.”

## KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY ADVANCED TO THE HONDA CAMPUS ALL-STAR CHALLENGE 2022 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES



Sixty HBCUs participated in the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge (HCASC) National Tournament. This year's virtual HCASC National Series took place Sunday, March 13, with over 300 students competing and representing their schools. Kentucky State University swept three rounds of competition, defeating Shaw University, Southern University-New Orleans and York College. In the playoff rounds, Kentucky State defeated Virginia State University and Shaw University. Advancing to the Super 16 competition on Sunday, March 20, Kentucky State held the number one seed in their division of play. Kentucky State defeated Paine College and advanced as one of the eight teams in the National Championship Series. The HCASC 33rd National Championship will take place April 10-12. Games begin at 6 p.m. EST and can be viewed at [youtube.com/HCASCNCT](https://youtube.com/HCASCNCT).

Honda Campus All-Star Challenge is a year-round program celebrating academic excellence and showcasing the talents of top HBCU students. Teams of four face off in a question-answer competition. Topics include history, science, literature, religion, math, sports, and pop-culture. Students from HBCUs are able to network, build camaraderie, and gain mentorship opportunities with HCASC alumni. Honda will provide institutional grants to participating HBCUs. The Kentucky State University HCASC team consists of Ciara Robinson, a freshman political science major; Dominique Aikens, a junior English education major; Yonga Zagarella, a sophomore business major; and team captain Micah Lynn, a freshman history major. Katianna Yates, director of campus life, has served as the team coach for four years.

## KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY DREW A CROWD FOR 2022 GREEN AND GOLD DAY AT THE CAPITOL



Kentucky State University supporters gathered Feb. 10 in the state capitol rotunda, honoring the University's legacy and touting its good works. Alumni, students, legislators, community members and supporters showed up en masse for the event. "We are elated by the support shown today to our students," Kentucky State University Acting President Clara Ross Stamps said. "The diversity and quantity of the supporters who came out today speak volumes about the work of Kentucky State University."

Kentucky State University administrators and alumni were honored, recognized and granted access to the floor. Legislators from across the Commonwealth recognized the importance of Kentucky State University and expressed their support of its 135-year legacy.

## KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR CO-AUTHORED NEW ARTICLE ON ANIMAL CORONAVIRUSES



A Kentucky State University professor recently co-authored a new article on animal coronaviruses. Dr. Alexander Lai, associate professor of biology, is a co-author on the recently published article titled "Phylogeography Reveals Association between Swine Trade and the Spread of Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus in China and across the World".

Lai said the research was a collaboration among scientists from China, Belgium and the United States. "The current COVID-19 pandemic has exposed major gaps in our knowledge on the origin, ecology, evolution, and spread of animal coronaviruses," Lai said. "Integrating data from viral evolution, geography, and international trade, we identified predictor variables for the spread of animal coronaviruses. This finding has significant application in the control of virus spread."

## KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURE PROFESSORS RECEIVE NEARLY \$60,000 TO ENCOURAGE ORGANIC AGRICULTURE



Kentucky State University's Dr. Shawn Lucas and Dr. Marcus Bernard received a \$59,626 grant to bring information about organic agriculture and careers in organic agriculture to minority and underrepresented stakeholders. The three-year grant is funded by the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service Specialty Crop Black Grant, administered through the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. The project is titled "Addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the Kentucky Organic Agriculture sector." "There is a need to foster diversity among people involved in organic agriculture," said Lucas. "Increasing diversity among organic professionals may ultimately expand interest in organic products among a broader and more diverse consumer base."

**There are three main objectives of the project:**

1. Identify barriers that limit minority participation in organic agriculture by conducting a survey.
2. Conduct outreach based on the survey results to attempt to openly discuss and potentially reduce barriers for Kentucky stakeholders. Additionally, present basic information on organic agriculture during this outreach and provide information on career opportunities in organic.
3. Generate interest among minority stakeholders in organic agriculture careers, including production as well as organic inspection and certification review.

Lucas is an organic agriculture professor, while Bernard is a professor of rural sociology.



APRIL 2022



## Morehead State biology faculty Hare, Mefford receive NIH grant research funding

Morehead State University has a long-standing reputation for academic quality, including the impactful work MSU faculty are doing in the classroom and through their research. This year, two MSU biology professors were awarded substantial grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) of more than \$400,000 each.

Dr. Melissa Mefford, assistant professor of biology and chemistry, received funding from the NIH for her research titled, "Telomere and telomerase evolution in *S. cerevisiae*." Dr. Janelle Hare, professor of biology, received NIH funding for her work titled, "Mechanisms of Action of UmuD in Regulating DNA Damage-Induced Genes in a umuC-Deficient Bacterium."

"NIH is one of the most competitive funding agencies," said Dr. Shannon Harr, director of the Office of Research and University Sponsored Programs. "For us to receive two in the same year is just a testament to the quality research happening at Morehead State University."

"Research is teaching, and these researchers involve students in their research every day, and these students who are fortunate enough to be involved in the research in the Department of Biology at Chemistry at Morehead State University are being well prepared for their chosen career paths," Harr said.

To learn more about research opportunities at MSU, visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/undergraduateresearch](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/undergraduateresearch).



### Office of the President

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## **MSU Foundation announces endowment for first-year students from Eastern Kentucky**

The MSU Foundation has announced the establishment of the Burke-Messer Memorial Scholarship Endowment. This endowment, made possible by individual contributions and an estate gift commitment, provides scholarship support to full-time incoming first-year students from Eastern Kentucky, giving preference to female students.

Created by two-time MSU graduate **Dr. N. Peggy Burke (Class of 1956, 1957)**, the scholarship is named after her parents to recognize the privately supported scholarships that made her college education possible.

“Without the financial support I received, I would have never been able to go to college myself,” she said. “I want to ‘pay it forward’ by enabling future students to achieve their educational dreams.”

Dr. Burke has remained a loyal supporter of MSU for many decades. This scholarship commitment ensures her continued support for generations to come. When fully funded, the Burke-Messer Memorial Scholarship Endowment will provide a \$10,000 renewable scholarship to an MSU student.

## **Two Craft Academy students are National Merit Scholarship finalists**

Two students from Morehead State’s Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics are finalists for the National Merit Scholarship.

Seniors Nakia McBride from Campbell County and Duncan McGinnis from Russell County are among the 15,000 finalists who have entered the final phase of the scholarship competition. Roughly 1.5 million students initially entered the competition.

## **Craft Academy launches Center for STEM+eXcellence**

The Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics at Morehead State is expanding its efforts to provide STEM+X learning opportunities for Kentucky students with the launch of the Center for STEM+eXcellence.

The Center for STEM+eXcellence will offer informal STEM+X education opportunities for Kentucky students in grades K-12. Programs are offered during the summer and throughout the year. The center is funded by a Kentucky Department of Education grant through federal COVID-19 relief funds. Programs are created and implemented by educators in public schools and universities across the state. All programs will be held on MSU’s campus and fully supported by the Center for STEM+eXcellence.

## **Kentucky Folk Art Center receives nearly half-million-dollar gift from the von Goeben Estate**

Hedda von Goeben is a long-time supporter and donor of the Kentucky Folk Art Center (KFAC) and its mission to shine a spotlight on both the artists and culture of the Appalachian region. While von Goeben passed away in October 2021 at the age of 90, her support for KFAC will be felt long after her passing. The MSU Foundation has announced that von Goeben left an estate gift for nearly \$470,000.

The endowment will be used for programmatic enhancement opportunities outside of basic operational needs. Funding can support art acquisitions, outreach programs, sales and gift shop enhancements, student worker stipends and other salary needs.



## Murray State University celebrates centennial year in 2022

Murray State University is celebrating its centennial in 2022 with numerous special events, exclusive merchandise and items, fundraising campaigns and much more. Individuals interested in learning about the University's centennial plans and its 100-year history can visit [murraystate.edu/centennial](http://murraystate.edu/centennial).

Murray State's story began with the spirit of giving. In 1922, the Murray and Calloway County community came together to give \$117,000 in cash and real estate in an effort to win the bid for a normal school in western Kentucky, known today as Murray State University. A special week of giving took place in March in honor of the March 8, 1922, passage of the Normal School Enabling Act by the Kentucky General Assembly. The "Give Bold" campaign raised nearly \$280,000 as of March 30, 2022, to benefit current and future students. Additional giving campaigns will be taking place throughout the centennial year.

A centennial book, "The Finest Place We Know," celebrates Murray State's 100-year story by looking back on the people, places and events which have shaped the institution's history. The comprehensive, keepsake pictorial history features hundreds of images from the Pogue Special Collections Library and is accompanied by stories that explore the institution's founding and growth over the past century. A portion of book sale proceeds will go toward supporting Murray State University's Pogue Library.

Murray State's first President, Dr. John W. Carr, stated in an April 1, 1926, letter to the Board of Regents, "The work of this institution has only begun...I want to see this faculty continue to develop in not only teaching ability, but heart power — the ability to lead and inspire...I want to see the fullest opportunities furnished to students...and to express themselves in science, art, music, literature, play, work, religion and especially in the teaching of children... I want to see young men and women who will become effective leaders...I want to see all of these things and more..."

"Murray State University's centennial provides each of us with an opportunity to reflect on an institution that, through the vision, focus and passion of many individuals, has advanced over the years while maintaining the 'heart power' that Dr. Carr shared many years ago to lead, inspire and support our students in their pursuits," Murray State President Dr. Bob Jackson said. "We encourage our entire campus community, alumni and supporters to celebrate this historic year with us."



## University recognized by Kentucky House of Representatives for assistance following December storms

Murray State University was recognized by the Kentucky House of Representatives in Frankfort on January 19 for its efforts in assisting the region following the tragic storms of December 10, 2021.

Immediately following the storms and in the midst of a large-scale power outage, the University activated its Emergency Operations Center to begin coordinating, communicating and assisting those who were deeply impacted in neighboring communities. The legislative citation of appreciation was presented on the House floor by State Representative Richard Heath, who represents Kentucky's 2nd House District which includes Graves County and parts of McCracken County, to Murray State President Dr. Bob Jackson, and recognized the University for various outreach and support. This included the utilization of five campus buildings to house and feed more than 700 National Guard members, FEMA responders and first responders, as well as others displaced by the disaster.

The University's CFSB Center was also used as a warming shelter, providing both accommodations and food for any and all displaced individuals in the western Kentucky region.

Murray State's "Racers Give" student scholarship fund was transitioned to specifically assist students deeply impacted by the storms with need-based financial support, through the generosity of the campus community, alumni, friends and supporters of the institution.

"I am very appreciative of Murray State University for immediately offering support and providing crucial assistance to our community during the tornado disaster last month," Representative Heath said. "We live in a wonderful region of the state that comes together and supports one another quickly in times of need and Murray State, like so many others, did just that."



## Murray State University recognized in U.S. Department of Education’s “College Scorecard”

The U.S. Department of Education’s “College Scorecard” recently highlighted Murray State University for student retention and graduation rates, as well as for quality and value.

Available at [collegescorecard.ed.gov](https://collegescorecard.ed.gov), Murray State compares favorably alongside its peer institutions in the state of Kentucky, with the following highlights in the scorecard’s comparative metrics.

- The percentage of Murray State undergraduate students who enroll full-time is the highest among the public, regional comprehensive universities in the state and is in the top two across all public universities.
- The typical monthly loan payment for a student after attending Murray State is the lowest among the public, regional comprehensive universities in the state and is second lowest among all public universities.
- The retention rate of first-time, full-time students at Murray State is the highest among the public, regional comprehensive universities in the state.
- The graduation rate of first-time, full-time students is the highest among the public, regional comprehensive universities in the state and is second among all public universities.
- Murray State is in the top two among public, regional comprehensive universities in the state in median salary earnings among graduates who are more than ten years removed from post-secondary education and who received federal financial aid while attending college.



## Black History Month includes a variety of events and programs

Murray State University hosted a variety of programs, resources and opportunities for the campus and greater community throughout Black History Month.

Events began with an African American Read-In where students, faculty, staff and community members read works from African American authors. The Office of Multicultural Initiatives, Student Leadership and Inclusive Excellence hosted a black history trivia night and dinner in Winslow Dining Hall located on campus.

Black Student Council hosted several events including a black history poster contest and a movie night. The Women’s Center, in partnership with West KY Now, held a voter registration table in recognition of Black History Month and in honor of Ida B. Wells and her voter registration work.

The month’s events concluded with a day-long symposium on topics of segregation and recreation. The symposium, sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Initiatives, Student Leadership and Inclusive Excellence, Cherokee State Resort Historical Park of Aurora, KY, Inc. and Explore Kentucky, included presenters from across the United States.



## Students share research posters at the 20th annual Posters-at-the-Capitol event

The 20th annual Posters-at-the-Capitol program took place in Frankfort, Kentucky, on Thursday, March 3, 2022. A total of 80 undergraduate students from all eight of the Commonwealth’s publicly-funded institutes of higher education were selected to display their research posters, provide brief descriptions of their faculty-mentored research and answer questions.

Ten research projects were crafted by Murray State undergraduate students and displayed at the event.

With unique research projects on display, the event is designed to help increase understanding of the important role undergraduate research plays in the education of college students among those responsible for higher education funding in the state of Kentucky. The event provides undergraduates the opportunity to engage in scholarly, research and creative works helping to promote an educational experience and professional development.



# GOLD RUSH

MARCH 2022

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

## GO FIGURE

NKU FOUNDERS' DAY 2022

54<sup>TH</sup>  
birthday of NKU

840

alumni, faculty, staff, community  
members and parents donated

\$528,414  
raised

## COLLEGE CORNER

The College of Health and Human Services has announced a new Master of Science in Cardiovascular Perfusion degree program, a first in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Students in the program will learn how to safely operate and maintain patient circulatory and respiratory function with the use of the heart-lung machine and other cardiopulmonary assist devices. Students will also learn how to safely monitor patient diagnostics, maintain homeostasis during surgery, introduce proper cardiovascular support medications and manage blood loss and anticoagulation. Students will begin taking classes in the new program in the fall of 2022.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/2p92ajyt>



### NKU CHASE LAW RECEIVES HISTORIC GIFT TO SUPPORT LUNSFORD ACADEMY

Business innovator and investor W. Bruce Lunsford has made the largest gift to Northern Kentucky University Salmon P. Chase College of Law in its 129-year history.

Lunsford, who graduated from Chase in 1974 and went on to create leading healthcare companies, real estate development firms and a Hollywood production

company, is donating \$3 million to the law school to broaden the impact of the W. Bruce Lunsford Academy for Law, Business + Technology. The Academy was created in 2013 with a \$1 million gift and has grown in impact since. Lunsford has now donated more than \$4 million to education programs at Chase.

"My initial vision was to provide expanded opportunities for stellar students to better prepare them to thrive in the evolving world of technology and business practices," Bruce Lunsford said. "Under the outstanding leadership of Dean Daar and the team at Chase, I have been extremely pleased with the successful outcomes that the students have achieved, and I look forward to the continuing evolution of the Academy in the years ahead."

The Lunsford Academy is an honors program at Chase that attracts top-tier students and advances hands-on and conceptual training in applications of law, business and technology that are increasingly inter-related in a digital economy. The Academy also partners with northern Kentucky and Cincinnati enterprises to enable them to utilize the expertise of Lunsford Scholars in internships and job placements.

The \$3 million gift will most immediately allow the Academy, among other initiatives, to increase Lunsford Fellowships for students working in the technology sector, broaden their entrepreneurial opportunities and expand geographically the networking and placement opportunities for students and graduates.

Lunsford is chairman and chief executive officer of Lunsford Capital LLC, a private investment company headquartered in Louisville, Ky.; chairman of Arcadia Communities LLC, a Louisville-based real estate development company for senior living communities; and chairman of the board of Sentry Health, an integrated health solutions enterprise.

He began his career after graduation from Chase as a lawyer in the Cincinnati firm of Keating, Muething & Klekamp, and later served as Kentucky Secretary of Commerce, when he was involved in the creation of a Delta Air Lines passenger hub at the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport and a UPS cargo hub at Louisville International Airport.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/yckhvu4x>



## WESTERN & SOUTHERN CONTACT CENTER OPENS ON NKU'S CAMPUS

NKU officially opened the Western & Southern Contact Center with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in March at Campbell Hall. Dignitaries from both NKU and Western & Southern were on hand for the celebration. "We are excited to partner with Western & Southern to provide this work-integrated learning opportunity for our students," said NKU President Ashish Vaidya. "The new contact center will allow our students to work part-time and gain meaningful real-world experience while pursuing their degree simultaneously."

The new contact center will allow students an opportunity for employment and engagement with one of the area's most well-known companies. It is just the latest development in NKU's partnership with Western & Southern, which has included the company's participation in class projects, career fairs and other special occasions on campus. "We are happy to have the opportunity to partner once again with NKU," said John F. Barrett, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Western & Southern Financial Group. "NKU students bring exceptional talent to the Greater Cincinnati/northern Kentucky region. We want to tap into that talent by helping them get to know Western & Southern and the great opportunities a career in financial services offers." Students can expect to perform a variety of duties at the center, including making outbound calls to life insurance applicants to verify application information as part of the underwriting process.

More than 200 hours of student work is expected to be available at the contact center, which will be open Monday through Friday during normal business hours. Work schedules will be flexible around a student's class schedule. **LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/bde6zezp>



## THE SCOREBOARD

The Northern Kentucky men's basketball team made another run in the Horizon League tournament in 2022, ultimately falling in the final round to Wright State. This was NKU's fourth appearance in the Horizon League tournament final in the past six years.

Marques Warrick led all Norse players with 28 points in the game, shooting 12-for-17 from the field and a perfect 3-for-3 from beyond the arc. Trevon Faulkner added 14 points while Bryson Langdon added 12. The Norse ended the year with a 20-12 overall record and 14-6 mark in Horizon League play.

**LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/3kyjtkrw>

## FACULTY FOCUS

Dr. Shamima Ahmed, a professor in the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program at NKU, has received a Fulbright Specialist Program award and will complete a project at the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The goal of Dr. Ahmed's project will be to exchange knowledge and establish partnerships benefiting participants, institutions and communities, both in the United States and Tajikistan. The project includes training and educational activities within the public administration field. **LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/ywknfh5p>

## BRIEFS

### PROVOST MATT CECIL SELECTED FOR STUDENT SUCCESS INSTITUTE FOR PROVOSTS

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Matt Cecil, has been selected to participate in the Student Success Institute for Provosts, a year-long leadership program tailored to the needs of experienced provosts.

The seven-month, hybrid program will allow Dr. Cecil to network with industry peers and leaders in the field of student success. He will also learn from the best experts and will learn critical practices that can effect change on the NKU campus.

**LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/2p8m59rx>

### DARRYL PEAL SELECTED FOR JOHN ROBERT LEWIS SCHOLARS AND FELLOWS PROGRAM

Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer Darryl A. Peal has been selected to take part in the Faith & Politics' John Robert Lewis Scholars and Fellow Program.

The objectives of the program are to build a nationwide network of rising leaders to organize with discipline and unity and to create positive societal change based on the revolutionary non-violent perspective that transformed the nation and the world toward freedom with the American Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s.

**LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/yc8ae46s>

### CINSAM RECEIVES GRANT TO EXPAND STEM2U PROGRAM

The NKU Center for Integrative Natural Science and Mathematics (CINSAM) has received a generous grant from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation to expand CINSAM's STEM2U program, bringing the program into after-school activities at seven local public schools.

Named STEM2U: After School, the adapted program is a partnership with the Clippard Family YMCA in Cincinnati and the Northwest Local School District (NWLSD) in southwest Ohio. Schools in the new program will come from NWLSD, Cincinnati Public Schools and Three Rivers Local Schools.

**LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/2c4c2d9d>

### NKU PROGRAMS NATIONALLY RANKED BY INTELLIGENT.COM

NKU has been awarded a top-ranking status for multiple degree programs by Intelligent, a student-focused comprehensive research guide assessing over 2,900 higher-education institutions.

Intelligent implemented a unique methodology that ranks each program on a scale from 0 to 100 across five categories. The scoring system compares each university according to program strength, student readiness, return on investment, cost and student engagement. Researchers compared 704 programs from 2,900 universities and colleges across the United States.

**LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/7xypheb8>



## ALUMNI NEWS

### A RENAISSANCE WOMAN

Armed with tools ranging from a paintbrush to a chisel, Gina Erardi ('20) strives to always make the best art she can, ensuring it can be enjoyed by anyone who walks by. Since she was young, Erardi was enthralled with creating art—first drawing sketches of statuettes at her babysitter's home when she was 5 years old.

**LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/yc4dv6y9>

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT APRIL 2022

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY



## LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CAPILOUTO

**A meeting of our Board of Trustees is often a time to check and measure our progress as an institution.**

Our February meeting focused on philanthropy – particularly on how philanthropy can support our strategic plan and its central mission to advance Kentucky in everything that we do. UK now has raised some \$1.7 billion toward the \$2.1 billion goal as part of the Kentucky Can campaign.

During our meetings, the UK board recognized or received more than \$30 million in gifts – investments and faith in our capacity to change our state for the better. Gifts included:

- \$5 million from Bill Gatton for scholarships to students with unmet financial need, those who are the first in their families to attend college and students coming to us to be trained and educated as our state's doctors.
- \$10 million from Ms. Joan Kincaid and Central Bank to improve cancer care in Kentucky. This foundational gift is part of an effort to improve and expand cancer care as part of one of the country's leading cancer centers. For too long, Kentucky has been among the nation's leaders in incidence rates of cancer. It's time to change that statistic – an aspiration of healing and hope.
- More than \$11 million from Karen and Stanley Pigman's Lighthouse Beacon Foundation that will go toward the renovation and expansion of the Funkhouser building for the College of Engineering, as well as need-based scholarships in that college.
- \$5 million from Michael Marberry to support the renovation and expansion of Funkhouser.

- More than \$1 million from Jacqueline Cain for scholarships in the College of Medicine.
- These gifts are expressions of faith and demonstrations of trust. They target different programs and initiatives but share an inherent challenge to us to do and be more for the state whose name we bear and whose future is our most important and sacred calling.

Consider the fact that about 25-30% of UK undergraduate students are the first in their families to attend college. About 80% of them are from Kentucky.

If we help more Kentuckians graduate, we will increase the numbers of skilled workers in our state, young people prepared not simply for their first jobs, but ready – and able – to create jobs and businesses that will change lives and transform communities.

In the remaining \$400 million to be raised as part of Kentucky Can, we will continue to focus on student scholarships as well as faculty, infrastructure and program needs that support our priorities of advancing Kentucky.

I am continually heartened by, and excited about, the work our people do to prepare our students and to provide care along with our research and service efforts in every community of Kentucky.

**Eli Capilouto**  
President

## RESEARCH

Like many researchers, Pete Nelson, M.D., Ph.D., has a personal connection to his work. His grandmother died with Alzheimer's Disease, and his mother has been extremely fearful of the disease as a result. As an experimental neuropathologist at the UK Sanders-Brown Center on Aging, Nelson says that almost every researcher dreams of classifying a disease and finding its cure.

Nelson accomplished the first part of that dream back in 2019, when a group of international researchers, co-chaired by Nelson, discovered a new form of dementia named limbic-predominant age-related TDP-43 encephalopathy, more commonly known as LATE. Symptoms of LATE mimic Alzheimer's disease by causing memory loss and problems with thinking and reasoning in old age. But researchers found the LATE-affected brain looks very different from the Alzheimer's brain.

Now a couple of years after this discovery, Nelson is working toward the second part of the dream, with the world's first clinical trial for LATE officially underway by his colleagues at the University of Kentucky.

LATE is a disease estimated to impact 40% of people over the age of 85. The medication in this research study may slow or perhaps even stop LATE in its tracks as a disease-modifying therapy.

Based on that knowledge, the team identified a drug already used around the world, except in the United States, where it is not yet approved. The medicine has been used for heart conditions, and researchers at UK believe it could slow or even stop LATE dementia.

For those who are believed to be at risk for LATE, UK is now the only place in the world where providers can do something about it, thanks to this trial. This new clinical trial for LATE is a perfect example of the collaboration that goes on at UK, how Sanders-Brown is a worldwide leader in Alzheimer's and dementia research, and how the researchers share a common link as teammates.



## DANCEBLUE



If there is anything the past year has taught us, it's that students at UK care deeply for others – those within their community and beyond. DanceBlue is one of many ways UK students give their time, energy and finances for those in need.

During this event, students dance nonstop to support children and families facing pediatric cancer. The 24-hour no-sitting, no-sleeping dance marathon is the culmination of a yearlong fundraising effort. In 2022, 550 participants raised \$1,430,497.39 for the Golden Matrix Fund, which was established to support the kids of the DanceBlue Kentucky Children's Hospital Hematology/Oncology Clinic. The Golden Matrix Fund was created to benefit the clinic's patients and families by providing care, support and comfort. The funds also support research at the UK Markey Cancer Center.

Since its founding in 2006, students participating in DanceBlue, the largest student-run philanthropy at UK, have raised more than \$19 million for pediatric cancer patients and their families.





Dear Friends,

In a few weeks, we'll mark the end of the spring semester here at the University of Louisville. Despite the challenges we've faced, particularly with the ongoing pandemic, I'm pleased to say that we've not just survived—we've thrived. And I want to salute all of our students, faculty and staff for helping us get to a very good place.

This spring, my first semester at the helm, has seen our efforts once again challenged by COVID-19. I'm so proud of how this campus community has reacted and rallied to deal with this pandemic. UofL has been a leader in both researching treatments for the virus and treating those who have had the virus. Our students, faculty and staff have taken the pandemic seriously by following safety procedures and protocols. More than 92% have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

We returned to in-person instruction in full force. Our campuses are once again active and vibrant. Our sports venues are packed with fans cheering on our beloved Cardinals, and our students continue to motivate and inspire with their achievements in the classroom, in the research lab and in our community.

In the first months of 2022, we named Kenny Payne as our new men's head basketball coach and extended the contract of our outstanding women's head basketball coach, Jeff Walz. We've announced the \$144 million expansion of UofL Hospital, pushed forward with our university strategic plan and successfully launched a new brand campaign. We've also announced several major research grants and kicked off a partnership with Humana and the Humana Foundation aimed at addressing health equity and examining the social determinants of health.

UofL continues to demonstrate that we are a community of care with student success as our highest priority. We are a research engine, a source of tremendous community service and the home of world-class health care. Our reach and influence are growing each day, both here in our local community and beyond.

I couldn't be happier to lead this exceptional institution at this point in its long and rich history. Our momentum is extremely positive right now, and I believe there are even greater successes coming for us in the very near future. I hope you'll join me and my team as we work to make the University of Louisville the place we all want it to be. After all, we can't do it without you. I hope to see you soon. Go Cards!

*Lori Stewart Gonzalez*

Lori Stewart Gonzalez  
Interim President, University of Louisville

## UofL Health announces \$144 million expansion at UofL Hospital

A new seven-story tower will anchor a \$144 million expansion and upgrade to UofL Health – UofL Hospital in downtown Louisville. The project will increase the hospital's operating capacity and facilitate a phased modernization to include all private beds throughout the remainder of the hospital. When complete, UofL Hospital will offer more than 360 beds, each in a private room, 20 operating rooms, plus a new 24-bed observation unit. Alongside the increased clinical space, the expansion will include an enhanced visitor experience with a new lobby, and waiting area, along with updates to the gift shop and coffee shop.

The hospital expansion also will lead to an expansion of the UofL Health team, with approximately 325 new jobs being created. Positions will include nurses, plus clinical and non-clinical support. New hires and their dependents are immediately eligible for free undergraduate tuition to UofL, funded by UofL Health.

The investments at UofL Hospital are part of an overall commitment to increase access to care in the region, particularly in federally medically underserved areas (MUAs). Over the past two years, UofL Health has opened five Urgent Care Plus locations, added two new locations for the Brown Cancer Center and recruited more than 143 new physicians. Two of the urgent care centers, a cancer center location and more than 100 physicians are specifically located to serve people living in MUAs.

"UofL Health has been an outstanding Team Kentucky partner in the fight against COVID-19, and this expansion is great news for Louisville and the commonwealth," said Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear.

Construction is expected to begin this spring, with the tower opening to its first patients in early 2024.



## New vice president for diversity, equity and inclusion named

A nationally recognized leader with both university and private practice experience will soon take the reins of UofL's diversity, equity and inclusion efforts.

Lee Gill, chief diversity officer and special assistant to the president for inclusive excellence at Clemson University, will join UofL as vice president for diversity, equity and inclusion May 15.

With more than 25 years of experience in the diversity field, Gill currently is a member of the president's leadership team at Clemson, where he is credited with building a sustainable infrastructure to incorporate diversity, equity and inclusion efforts into the campus culture and with creating programs that support and address the challenges facing women, Black and Hispanic students and the LGBTQ community. He created the Clemson University Men of Color National Summit, which brings together more than 2,000 students, educators, business professionals, government officials and community leaders from around the country to explore issues and share best practices to increase high school and college graduation rates.

Gill serves on a number of boards of directors, including the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education. In 2014, he received the National Diversity Visionary Award from INSIGHT into Diversity magazine for his significant contributions to diversity in higher education.

"I am excited at the opportunity of working with Interim President Gonzalez and the leadership team to help advance the DEI mission of this great university," Gill said. "So many best practices and national models are in place here at UofL along with an engaged faculty, staff and student body. I look forward to working with them and others to continue building a dynamic, inclusive campus community."



## UOFL RESEARCHER EXPLORES WHAT HAPPENS IN OUR BRAINS WHEN WE DIE

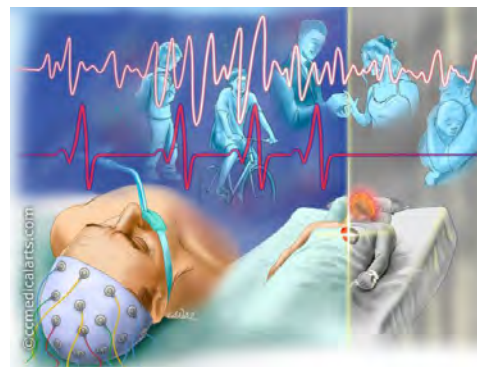
University of Louisville neurosurgeon Ajmal Zemmar and colleagues have recorded the activity of a dying human brain for the first time and discovered rhythmic brain wave patterns around the time of death that are similar to those occurring during dreaming, memory recall and meditation. Their study, published in *Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience*, brings new insight into a possible organizational role of the brain during death and suggests an explanation for vivid life recall in near-death experiences.

Imagine reliving your entire life in the space of seconds. Like a flash of lightning, you are outside of your body, watching memorable moments you lived through. This process, known as “life recall,” can be similar to what it’s like to have a near-death experience. What happens inside

your brain during these experiences and after death are questions that have puzzled neuroscientists for centuries. However, Zemmar’s findings suggest that your brain may remain active and coordinated during and even after the transition to death and be programmed to orchestrate the whole ordeal.

Brain oscillations (more commonly known as “brain waves”) are patterns of rhythmic brain activity normally present in living human brains. The different types of oscillations are involved in high-cognitive functions such as concentrating, dreaming, meditation, memory retrieval, information processing and conscious perception, just like those associated with memory flashbacks.

“Through generating oscillations involved in memory retrieval, the brain may be playing a last



recall of important life events just before we die, similar to the ones reported in near-death experiences,” Zemmar said. “These findings challenge our understanding of when exactly life ends and generate important subsequent questions, such as those related to the timing of organ donation.”

## Former Cardinal Kenny Payne named UofL Men’s Basketball coach

Kenny Payne, a veteran college and NBA coach and former University of Louisville basketball player, has been named the new head men’s basketball coach at the University of Louisville. Payne’s six-year contract with the Cardinals extends through the 2027-28 season.

Payne has 17 years of coaching experience, most recently serving as an assistant coach with the NBA’s New York Knicks after 15 years as a college assistant or associate head coach with both the University of Oregon and the University of Kentucky.

The Knicks posted a 41-31 record in 2020-21, finishing fourth in the NBA’s Eastern Conference and are currently 29-40 this season. While at Oregon and Kentucky, Payne was part of four Final Four teams, 10 NCAA Tournaments and won six conference titles. Payne was honored in the A STEP UP Assistant Coaches Hall of Fame Class of 2020 for his track record of success and contributions to the game, as well as his high character, integrity and



respect among colleagues. He has been nationally recognized for his player development, helping dozens of players achieve their dreams of playing in the NBA.

As a student-athlete at UofL, Payne scored 1,083 points in his career (1985-89), connecting on 40.1% of his career three-point attempts (85-of-212, fourth-highest in UofL history). He was a member of Louisville’s 1986 NCAA Championship

team as a freshman, and throughout his collegiate career, Louisville participated in three NCAA Sweet Sixteens, won three Metro Conference championships and three Metro tournament titles.

“Our fans and community deserve a championship basketball program fueled by exceptional and high-character student-athletes, and it is my responsibility to deliver on that vision. I cannot wait to get started,” said Payne.

## \$25M INNOVATION HUB TO BOOST HEALTH EQUITY

The University of Louisville, Louisville-based Humana Inc. and The Humana Foundation announced a new cooperative agreement and additional financial investment in the university’s Health Equity Innovation Hub to advance health equity and improve health outcomes for marginalized populations in Louisville and communities around the world.

The Hub is funded by a potential total investment of \$25 million, including \$10 million from UofL, \$1.5 million from Humana and up to \$13.5 million from The Humana Foundation. The investment by The Humana Foundation represents one of the largest single donations in UofL’s history and is contingent upon progress against the collaboration’s objectives and achievement of established milestones.

Developing solutions for health inequities in Louisville and globally is the main focus of the Hub’s work. This includes the up-skilling and re-skilling of community members who have been underserved to provide a talent pipeline for Louisville’s significant concentration of major health care companies, thereby creating a pathway for family-sustaining jobs. The Hub will also conduct dedicated outcomes-based research on population and social health issues

to derive a wide range of insights on how to mitigate health inequities and the adverse impacts of health-related social needs. In addition, the Hub will support diverse creators, innovators and entrepreneurs whose ideas can positively impact populations around the world that have historically been marginalized and underserved.

The Hub also will create and collaborate with advisory boards, including national thought leaders, community organizations and local community residents who are passionate about improving social and health equity in their neighborhoods, as well as local business leaders and mentors from a diverse cross-section of the health equity ecosystem.







## NEWS FOR THE COUNCIL ON

# POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

APRIL 2022

### 19 WKU students earn Gilman Scholarship for study abroad

19 WKU students earned the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship for study abroad in the October 2021 application cycle, more than all other Kentucky institutions combined.

The Gilman Scholarship broadens the student population that studies or interns abroad by supporting undergraduates who might not otherwise participate due to financial constraints. The 19 recipients in this application cycle earned scholarships totaling \$91,000.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly altered the operations of the scholarship program and the study abroad programs it funds. Recipients whose study abroad plans are interrupted by travel restrictions are able to defer awards to study abroad programs that begin before October 31, 2022 or apply funding to alternative programs, including credit-bearing virtual international opportunities.

Funded by the U.S. Department of State, the Gilman Scholarship program funds internships or study abroad programs for undergraduate Pell Grant recipients. Since 2001, the Gilman Scholarship has enabled more than 33,000 Americans to study in countries around the world, representing diverse backgrounds including ethnic minority students, students with disabilities, and first-generation college students.



WKU online bachelor's programs ranked highest in Kentucky and among TOP 35 in the nation

*U.S. News & World Report* has ranked Western Kentucky University among the top 35 Best Online Bachelor's Programs in the nation – and No. 1 in Kentucky.

The 2022 rankings are selected according to the program's engagement, services and technology, faculty credentials and training, and expert opinion. According the report, "U.S. News chose factors that weigh how these programs are being delivered and their effectiveness at awarding affordable degrees in a reasonable amount of time."

"This work requires a serious commitment from professionals throughout our University to ensure online learners receive an outstanding educational experience and the support they need to succeed," said Interim Assistant Director, Online Program Development, Dr. Tanja Bibbs.

"It's an honor for WKU to be ranked so highly among online degree programs throughout the country," she stated.

WKU also received rankings for the following categories: Best Online Bachelor's Programs for Veterans, Best Online Master's in Education for Veterans Program, Best Online Bachelor's in Business Programs, Best Online MBA Programs for Veterans, Best Online MBA Programs, and Best Online Master's in Education.

WKU offers over 80 online degree options, including certificate, bachelor's, and master's programs. All programs are regionally accredited.

For information about online degree programs at WKU, visit or call (270) 745-5173.



## WKU announces significant fall to spring retention gains

Western Kentucky University's fall 2021 first-time, first-year student class has returned to the university for the spring semester in record fashion. In an email to campus on Monday, February 14, WKU President Timothy C. Caboni announced the university's highest fall-to-spring retention rate among first-time, first-year students since the institution began tracking that data over a decade ago.

Overall, 90.9% of the first-time, first-year students who were enrolled at WKU for the fall 2021 semester returned to the institution this spring. This represents a 4.6 percentage point increase in just over four years, when the retention rate for first-time students was 86.3% among the class that entered WKU in the fall 2017 semester. It is also a 2 percentage point increase compared to last year's fall-to-spring retention and is the first time the university's retention rate has eclipsed the 90% mark since at least the fall 2010 semester, when the university began tracking fall-to-spring retention data.

President Caboni highlighted retention gains among populations that have historically been underserved by higher education. Retention among underrepresented minority students rose from 85.7% among the fall 2020 incoming class to 90.3% for the fall 2021 class. This represents a nearly 10 percentage point increase during the last four years, when only 80.4% of the underrepresented minority students in the class that entered in the fall of 2017 returned the following spring. Similarly, first generation student fall-to-spring retention rose from 85.5% for the fall 2020 class to 87.1% among the fall 2021 class, and low-income retention increased from 86% to 88.6% during the same time period.

"We have dedicated significant resources to closing the achievement gap among our students," President Caboni said. "Helping students who for so long have been underserved by higher education perform as well as their peers is something of which we should all be proud."

President Caboni noted that students leave higher education for a number of reasons, including financial difficulties, a perceived lack of support, and difficulty finding a like-minded peer group. He stated that the university has worked hard to address these concerns. "We've implemented an aggressive aid model to address our students' financial challenges. We've expanded our student support services and made them more accessible to students than ever before. And we have worked diligently to connect our students with their peers to facilitate those student-to-student interactions that remain vital to success."

One example of the university's efforts to connect students with like-minded peer groups and to provide essential student support is the expansion of WKU's Living Learning Communities (LLCs) within the newly opened First Year Village. In an LLC, students with similar academic or social interests live together on a residence hall floor and participate in activities tailored to their specific majors or interests. Students who participated in an LLC during the fall 2021 semester were retained at a rate of 95.2%, which is 5.9 percentage points higher than non-LLC participants.

Chris Jensen, WKU's Assistant Vice President for Student Success, noted that student support has become a trademark of the WKU experience. "The overall gains reflect the culture of student success that has been developed at WKU," Jensen said. "Academic colleges and support units continue to make strategic changes to ensure all students are successful at WKU."



## WKU named a Gold Military Friendly School

WKU has been named a Gold [Military Friendly® School](#) by Victory Media for the first time, increasing its ranking by three levels. Only 162 schools were selected as a Gold institution. WKU has proudly been named a [Military Friendly® School](#) for the past 13 years and has been listed in the field's most comprehensive database for career training, education, and family resources.

Each year, the WKU Military Student Services office completes a propriety survey which measures student success and assesses WKU's military friendly programs and policies. Institutions earning the [Military Friendly® School](#) designation are then evaluated using both public data sources and responses from the Victoria Media survey. Once compiled, the information is vetted and compared to other similar programs across the nation. WKU has achieved this classification consecutively since 2009.

WKU Military Student Services also provides help through the Textbook for Troops program, which helps military-connected students receive necessary textbooks for their degree program for free. They also assist with federal tuition assistance requests and maintain a Veteran Resource Center.

WKU also offers unique services to its military students; a discounted tuition rate of \$250 per credit hour to all active duty, reserve, and National Guard members. This offering is also available for graduate student use.

Read more about WKU's veteran services at [wku.edu/veterans](http://wku.edu/veterans).