



Commonwealth Education Continuum

MINUTES

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Type: Regular Meeting
Date: April 17, 2024
Time: 1:00 p.m. ET
Location: Council on Postsecondary Education (Virtual via Zoom)

CALL TO ORDER

The Commonwealth Education Continuum (CEC) held a regular meeting on April 17, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. ET. Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-243 and a memorandum issued by the Finance and Administration Cabinet dated March 16, 2020, and in an effort to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), the CEC met utilizing a video teleconference. Members of the public were not permitted to attend the meeting in person but were encouraged to view the meeting on the Council on Postsecondary Education's YouTube channel.

ATTENDANCE

The following members were present: CPE President Aaron Thompson, Interim Education Commissioner Robin Kinney, Lynn Baker, Diana Barber, Matt Berry, Alisher Burikhanov, Heather Bushelman, Eddie Campbell, Kathleen Christian, DeDe Conner, Alicia Crouch, Mason Dyer, Jo Carole Ellis, Jim Flynn, John Gregory, Robert Hayes, John Hughes, Dallas Kratzer, Travis Muncie, Jenny Sawyer, Diana Woods. Ashley Ireland attended as proxy for Robert Jackson and Susan Rieber attended as proxy for Lt. Governor Jacqueline Coleman.

The following members were not present: Rhonda Caldwell, Debbie Dennison, Beth Hargis, Robert Jackson, Jamie Link, Solyana Mesfin, Justin Mitchell, Corinne Murphy, Sharon Porter-Robinson, Ryan Quarles, Rep. James Tipton, Madison Silvert, Kerri Schelling, Ashli Watts and Rep. Steve West.

WELCOME AND AGENDA

CPE President Aaron Thompson began the meeting by extending a welcome to members and meeting guests. Dr. Thompson shared that Kentucky legislative session ended just two days prior to the meeting and discussed CEC recommendations that have been put into action including the Summer Bridge Program where summer bridge



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programs helped bring an additional \$315,000 in tuition dollars in students' second year alone.

Dr. Thompson discussed the significant expansion of Dual Credit in the state and highlighted that the General Assembly increased the number of courses from 2 to 4 that are covered through the dual credit scholarship program. Dr. Thompson also discussed collaborations with stakeholders to revise the dual credit policy and to establish a first-of-its-kind in the nation Dual Credit Attainment Goal to open opportunity to even more students. An Update on funding for the 2023 FY was provided by Jo Carole Ellis, Executive Director from KHEAA and the work the Kentucky Advising Academy is doing in collaboration with many partners in the creation of a toolkit, free resources, professional learning opportunities and a new advising framework. Dr. Thomas emphasized some of the challenges as the work moves ahead such as the FAFSA completion rates and our Educator Workforce shortage and discussed the importance of strong collaboration to seek change and strengthen our education pipeline.

Interim Education Commissioner Robin Kinney welcomed members and shared that Dr. Robbie Fletcher was selected to serve as the next Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Education and provided a timeline for his onboarding.

CPE Vice President Amanda Ellis provided an introduction of the CEC Workgroups for 2024 which include **Affordability of Postsecondary Education, K-12 Educator Workforce, P20 Competency Framework and Postsecondary Advising**. The meeting attendees divided into breakout groups where the workgroup co-leads provided updates to the Continuum about the work that is being done in each workgroup.

MONITORING PROGRESS ON CEC PRIORITIES

The Executive Director of the Kentucky Center for Statistics (KYSTATS) Matt Berry discussed proposed metrics to monitor the progress of the CEC priorities and inform stakeholders of the progress using relevant data.

REVIEW 2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Interim KDE Commissioner Robin Kinney, CPE Vice President and General Counsel, Travis Powell, and the Deputy Secretary of the Education and Labor Cabinet provided updates on the 2024 Legislative Session and highlighted several bills of interest including HB 6 which includes funding for full day kindergarten and funding for a Statewide Reading Research Center and along with HB377 creates a KHEAA Teacher Scholarship Program, a KHEAA Student Teacher



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Stipend Program and the KHEAA Teacher Recruitment Student Loan Forgiveness Pilot Program. SB 265 which establishes a new teacher induction and mentoring program and HB 300, which establishes EPSB complaint response timelines was explained. HB 695 which creates the adaptive Kindergarten readiness pilot and provides preschool children with access to educational technology programs and HB 162, the Kentucky Numeracy Counts Act were also discussed. Additionally, HB 825 which requires the Office of the Auditor of Public Accounts to conduct a full performance audit of the KDE and HCR-81 which requires the establishment of the Efficient and Effective School District Governance Task Force was discussed.

CLOSING

Dr. Amanda Ellis announced the next meeting date will be held virtually on August 21 from 1:00-3:00 ET and allowed members to ask questions and make final comments. Dr. Ellis thanked members for the attendance and participation in the meeting and members were reminded that they will receive follow-up information from the days meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.