



1024 Capital Center Dr. Suite 320
Frankfort, KY 40601-8204

Phone: 502.573.1555

Fax: 502.573.1535

www.cpe.state.ky.us

Thomas D. Layzell
President

December 17, 2004

The Council on Postsecondary Education is directed by statute to provide to the Governor and the members of the General Assembly an accountability report on Kentucky's postsecondary education system. Here we document the progress achieved in 2003-04 toward achieving the goals of the *Postsecondary Education Improvement Act* of 1997.

This year's report also includes a section on progress achieved since the passage of Senate Bill 1, the *Kentucky Adult Education Act*. SB 1, passed in 2000, created a partnership between the Department for Adult Education and Literacy and the Council on Postsecondary Education by placing budget and policy development under CPE's purview. The partnership was strengthened in July 2003 when the Department moved from the Cabinet for Workforce Development to the Council on Postsecondary Education, and was renamed "Kentucky Adult Education."

Much has been accomplished since these education reforms began. There are tens of thousands more students on Kentucky's public and independent campuses. The number of adult students served has more than doubled since 2000, and more of these students are transitioning to college. Graduation and retention rates continue to improve. Our colleges and universities are reaching out in innovative ways to serve a more diverse population of students. They are providing needed training and services for Kentucky's business community, and they are building academic and research programs that are gaining national recognition.

Progress has been made, and the people of Kentucky are benefiting. But there is a lot of work still to do. Graduation and retention rates must continue to improve if Kentucky is to reach the national average in educational attainment. Transfer from two- to four-year institutions, and from adult education programs to college must increase if all of our citizens are to benefit from postsecondary education. And federal research and development dollars generated must grow if Kentucky is to successfully compete in the knowledge economy.

The format of next year's accountability report will be revised based on Kentucky's new postsecondary education public agenda. We will continue to work with you as we develop the new format and welcome your comments and suggestions. Thank you for the vision and support you bring to the cause of adult education and postsecondary education reform.

Sincerely,

Thomas D. Layzell