

**Council on Postsecondary Education**  
**November 7, 2008**

## **Transfer: Next Steps**

In October 2007, the Council on Postsecondary Education published *Double the Numbers: Kentucky's Plan to Increase College Graduates*. The plan projects Kentucky will need 800,000 adults with at least a bachelor's degree in the year 2020 to reach the national average in educational attainment, as mandated by the *Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997* (HB 1). The plan establishes five essential strategies for ramping up degree production, which include enrolling more first-time students in the Kentucky Community and Technical College System and transferring them to a four-year program. In September 2008, the Council on Postsecondary Education reviewed a policy brief, *The Transfer Pipeline* (<http://cpe.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/D0F435CB-EB3B-41BE-BA08-11E10C5782EF/0/TransferPolicyBriefFINAL93008.pdf>), focusing on two- to four-year transfer. The purpose of the policy brief is to provide a snapshot of current statewide transfer initiatives, transfer data analysis, barriers to transfer, and strategies that will produce the dramatic increases in transfer required to meet the Double the Numbers goal of 11,300 transfers in 2020.

Current transfer initiatives include a statewide outreach campaign, transfer scholarships, improved advising services, alternative learning formats, and transfer pathways for students to obtain a bachelor's degree. KnowHow2GOKy ([www.knowhow2goky.org/transfer/](http://www.knowhow2goky.org/transfer/)) includes a new transfer student handbook in print and online formats to inform KCTCS students of the long-term financial and personal benefits of attaining a bachelor's degree. All public universities and KCTCS have transfer scholarships although the requirements and amounts vary. Advising initiatives include the newly created Kentucky Academic Advising Association ([www.kacada.org](http://www.kacada.org)), an online transfer course equivalency system ([www.redlanternu.com/](http://www.redlanternu.com/)), joint admission/joint enrollment programs, and electronic transcript exchange. The Kentucky Virtual Campus offers a comprehensive list of associate degrees ([www.kyvc.org/earning/transfer.asp](http://www.kyvc.org/earning/transfer.asp)) that transfer completely to online bachelor's degree programs. Transfer pathways between technical and applied four-year programs are being expanded.

The Council staff will discuss these next steps as well as other strategies with the Statewide Transfer Committee and Chief Academic Officers to improve two-year to four-year transfer across Kentucky.

- Establish a Transfer Rights and Responsibilities Policy.
- Conduct annual workshops for key institutional transfer personnel to ensure consistent application of the General Education Transfer Policy at all public institutions.

- Work with universities to determine the extent to which transfer issues are barriers to the attainment of Double the Number goals in comparison to broader issues of affordability, access, and managing family and work responsibilities.
- Partner with the Chief Academic Officers to identify the means to measure the success or failure of transfer policies.
- Revise the General Education Transfer Policy to address the basis for the evaluation, acceptance, and review of credit.
- Review and revise the statewide definition of transfer to account for students who transfer to out-of-state and proprietary institutions while continuing to live or work in Kentucky.
- Conduct a follow-up survey of students who transferred from KCTCS but have not yet completed a bachelor's degree at a Kentucky public four-year institution to identify actual barriers students encountered during transfer.
- Work toward new approaches to transfer in addition to the current course-based system.
- Conduct research on time and credits to degree for targeted student populations, institutions, academic disciplines, etc.