

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

## **Trustee Leadership/Professional Development Proposals**

Since the passage of postsecondary reform in 1997, the CPE has sponsored several initiatives to provide professional development opportunities for members of institutional boards including leadership retreats hosted by the CPE board chairman, the Institute for Effective Governance, a program jointly sponsored by CPE and the Prichard Committee, and the annual Governor's Conference on Postsecondary Education Trusteeship. The activities have helped meet the Council's statutory requirement to provide professional development and orientation programs for board members and have provided a valuable service in bringing together trustees to share issues of interest and common concern.

State-level board professional development currently is limited to the trusteeship conference, an event that has gained a strong reputation over the past several years. Attendance has been strong, and feedback about the quality of programs has been overwhelmingly positive. The participants have welcomed the opportunity to get more hands-on knowledge about their responsibilities as board members and learn about state and federal policy issues and how those impact their institutions. The trustees also value the opportunity to interact with board members from other institutions and with members of the Council.

The following proposals would be developed and implemented in partnership with the institutional presidents and other campus representatives and would be designed to build on the state-level professional development opportunities offered by the trusteeship conference.

### **Proposal #1 – Creation of the Kentucky Trustee Leadership Roundtable**

The Trustee Leadership Roundtable would be a group comprised of the board chairs and vice chairs of Kentucky's public universities, the KCTCS system, and the Council on Postsecondary Education. Board chairs representing Kentucky's independent colleges might also be invited to join. The goal of the group would be to provide a venue and forum for the lay leadership of the institutions of postsecondary education in the state to meet with their peers from the Council to discuss key issues related to the implementation of HB 1, current policy issues at the state or institutional level, and determine broader state-level professional development opportunities for other members of their boards.

The group would meet two to three times a year (one meeting at the annual trusteeship conference) and would be staffed by CPE in collaboration with institutional presidents and administrators. Speakers/facilitators might be brought in for these events to address topics of interest and facilitate discussion. Should there be a desire to move forward, it is recommended that the CPE board chair convene a meeting of the group in the next few

months to determine the feasibility and value of the Trustee Leadership Roundtable and determine next steps.

### **Proposal #2 – Creation of the Trustee Professional Development Series**

The Trustee Professional Development Series would provide educational and training opportunities to public college and university board and CPE members emphasizing both the effectiveness of boards as units and individual member training. Administered by the Council on Postsecondary Education under the direction of the Kentucky Trustee Leadership Roundtable and in collaboration with institutional presidents, the series also would seek to improve communication and strengthen relationships among the various institutional boards and with the members of the CPE. The series would focus both on delivering content (best practices, nuts and bolts information) and on effective board behavior (leadership skills, team building).

The professional development opportunities offered through the series will be determined by the Leadership Roundtable. Ideally, the professional development opportunities will be offered three to four times throughout the year for those trustees with an interest in the specific topics. They might be focused in a specific region, offered in a Webinar format, or in a state-level seminar/workshop format. To the extent possible, the series would make use of the expertise within Kentucky's colleges and universities, the Association of Governing Boards, and other leadership organizations to lead sessions, workshops, seminars, etc.

### **Proposal #3 – Use Technology to Improve Communications**

Another strategy to improve communication among the institutional boards would be the creation of a quarterly or semi-annual electronic newsletter, Web site, or electronic forum to facilitate communication among the institutional lay leadership. It will be developed and administered by the Council on Postsecondary Education under the direction of the Kentucky Trustee Leadership Roundtable and in collaboration with institutional presidents or their representatives. The newsletter/e-forum would provide information about state-level events and activities of interest to college and university trustees, highlight the work of the Trustee Leadership Roundtable, report on events sponsored by the Trustee Professional Development Series, and provide an online space to share information, post comments, and ask questions.