

**Council on Postsecondary Education**  
**September 28, 2008**

## **State P-16 Council Update**

The State P-16 Council has met twice since the Council on Postsecondary Education's last meeting.

At the June State P-16 Council meeting, members reviewed the recommendations of the Kentucky Department of Education's Dual Credit Task Force and discussed priority actions. Based on the greatest immediate needs and the unlikely availability of additional state funding, attention was drawn to five attainable priorities:

1. Developing transitional mathematics courses for high school seniors identified as underprepared based on the grade 11 ACT assessment.
2. Supporting the P-20 Data Work Group to obtain data on participation, outcomes assessment, and costs of dual credit and other college-level learning opportunities, and development of dual credit policies and guidelines based on data-based research.
3. Coordinating the work regarding Career Pathways from high school through college, credit transfer between two- and four-year institutions, and identification of a statewide core of dual credit courses.
4. Increasing the pool of dual-credit instructors by establishing written policies regarding dual credit instructors, specifying conditions under which postsecondary faculty may teach high school students, and standardizing and clarifying requirements for adjunct college faculty status so high school teachers can teach courses for college credit.
5. Increasing access to college credit opportunities for high school students through a combination of delivery and statewide tuition and funding policies.

Council members heard an update of an initiative by mathematics faculty across the state to develop online mathematics readiness assessments for use at all Kentucky postsecondary institutions and for early intervention in middle and secondary schools.

Council members also were briefed on the annual report of Kentucky's Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) program, which focused on the earmarks and creation of a "college-going culture" in Kentucky's middle and high schools. Staff drew Council members' attention to five national initiatives to improve students' readiness for college (GEAR UP, Project Lead The Way®, State Scholars, the National Math and Science Initiative, and the Appalachian Math and Science Partnership). Collectively, these initiatives are awarded several million dollars in federal, state, and private funding. By identifying and mapping the schools and districts where these initiatives are sited (and where they are not), state policymakers can increase their impact. By linking student achievement data from school to college, the state can scale up lessons learned and best practices developed in these programs for the benefit of all Kentucky students. Council members agreed that both the state and local P-16 councils should be engaged in the planning, implementation, and oversight of these large-scale postsecondary readiness initiatives.

Members were given an overview and demonstration of Kentucky's College Access initiative, KnowHow2GOKy. Tom Prather, executive vice president of the newly formed NewCities Institute, and Carolyn Witt Jones of the Partnership for Successful Schools reported on the merging of these two organizations and their agenda to enlist both employers and civic leaders across the state in raising the level of educational attainment and economic development in the Commonwealth.

Members also received copies of the *Education Week* profile of Kentucky's P-16 Council. *Ed Week* joined the Education Commission of the States and the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education to study P-16/20 councils as an emerging structure in many states for bridging the K-12 and postsecondary sectors. The three organizations plan to release a fuller report in the fall.

Three local councils (Big Sandy, Central Kentucky, and Kentucky River) were awarded funding to implement additional initiatives. The Kentucky River Area P-16 Council will convene representatives of local councils throughout the year to share data, research, and best practices.

At the September meeting five new P-16 Council members were introduced. Donna Moore (who will chair the State P-16 Council in 2008-09) and Pam Miller represent the Council on Postsecondary Education. Billy Harper represents the Kentucky Board of Education. Lorraine Williams represents the Education Professional Standards Board. Richard Crofts is CPE's interim president.

Staff reported on the recent release of ACT scores for graduating seniors, scores for the first statewide administration of the ACT to all public school juniors, and the College Board's release of Advanced Placement and SAT scores. Since the June meeting, CPE and KDE staff, together with ACT staff, conducted six regional symposia with postsecondary and district leaders to identify how to use the data generated by the Educational Planning and Assessment System (EPAS) and the ACT, now administered to all public school students in the Commonwealth at grades 8, 10, and 11, respectively, for the benefit of students. Superintendents were shown how early diagnostic data can guide school and district planning and direct appropriate instructional intervention and academic and career guidance. College presidents and provosts were shown how early student achievement and career interest data can be used for long-range enrollment management and to increase the college readiness of potential college applicants.

Kentucky fielded a team attending both the National Association of System Heads annual P-16 Summer Institute in July and Achieve Inc.'s annual American Diploma Project Network Leadership Team in September. As an early ADP partner state, Kentucky committed to aligning standards, graduation requirements, assessments, and accountability policies with the demands of college and careers.

Council members also heard an update on the development of P-20 data-sharing capacity.