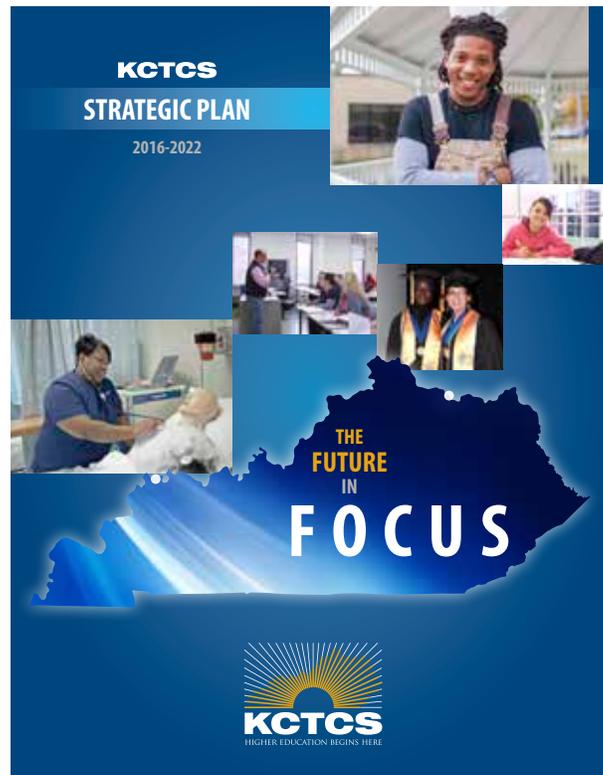


KCTCS GOOD NEWS REPORT

HIGHER EDUCATION BEGINS HERE

SEPTEMBER 2016



THE FUTURE IN FOCUS

KCTCS STRATEGIC PLAN PROVIDES FORWARD VISION

At KCTCS, we focus a great deal of our resources on recruitment and helping people of all ages enroll in a college program. But for us, that's not enough. Our goal is for students not only to enroll in college, but to complete college.

That sometimes can be difficult for some of our students. The average KCTCS student is 27, so many of them are juggling family and jobs along with college. Job responsibilities, sick children and other life issues get in the way and sometimes college moves to the back burner. Sometimes, they get jobs and drop out before completing their programs. Although we're always happy when people become employed, we continue to look for ways to get them to stick with their program even after they go back to work. This is becoming more important than ever before.



KENTUCKY COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM



Most jobs already require some type of postsecondary credential, and that will only continue to increase. Even though unemployment is low, many people are working in jobs that don't pay well, mainly because a large portion of Kentucky's workforce is undereducated.

Kentucky faces a big barrier when it comes to convincing people how important higher education is. It's a cultural issue that won't change overnight, but that doesn't mean KCTCS and others aren't trying to change it.

We've spent much of the last year or so working with internal teams and organizations from around the state to develop a new six-year strategic plan. The goal was to align the KCTCS plan with state agencies and associations for a strategic vision for Kentucky and Kentucky jobs.

KCTCS received input from more than 4,000 community members, business leaders, students and employees from all across the state. The 16 KCTCS colleges also played host to Innovation Roundtables, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, in nine economic regions of the state.

During that time, KCTCS also put together Business Champion Councils at every college. These business leaders are some of our many partners from throughout the state who are hiring KCTCS graduates. They've been helpful in letting us know what we're doing right and what we can improve. KCTCS used all of this input to develop the strategic plan, which is now complete.

Here are the goals of the plan:

- Raise the level of educational attainment in the Commonwealth by positioning KCTCS as the accessible, affordable, and relevant postsecondary education choice for Kentuckians.
- Increase access and success for all KCTCS students, particularly among traditionally underserved populations.
- Develop clear pathways through all levels of postsecondary education with an emphasis on experiential learning that lead to successful employment outcomes for KCTCS graduates.
- Improve student engagement, support, experiences, and success with best-in-class academic and student services.
- Align programs and curricula with needs of employers that enhance the employability, job placement and career development of KCTCS graduates.

With the strategic plan finalized, we now have our roadmap for moving forward. Our mission is to improve the lives and employability of Kentuckians, and we now have an even better plan for doing so.

