



2011-15 Strategic Agenda Focus on Student Success

Goal: Kentucky will be stronger by ensuring more of its people complete college with the skills and abilities to be productive and engaged citizens.

Policy Objective 4: Increase high-quality degree production and completion rates at all levels and close achievement gaps, particularly for lower-income, underprepared, and underrepresented minority students.

Strategy 4.1: Maximize KCTCS's role as a high quality, low-cost provider of postsecondary education and transfer opportunities encouraging college access and success.

- Degree Pathways work groups have been creating semester-by-semester sample progression academic plans for numerous majors. Approximately 80 degree pathways will be posted on KnowHow2Transfer.org by summer 2014.
- CPE, in partnership with the state's colleges and universities, sponsored Transfer Madness on March 5, 2014. More than 1,500 students registered for the 12-hour event designed to connect them with transfer advisors, scholarship information, financial aid, and more at statewide institutions. 68 percent of participants were from Kentucky and 50 percent were current college students. The event also drew more than 400 high school students.

Strategy 4.2: Provide institution and student incentives to increase high-quality degree production and completion rates.

- The Council distributed more than \$15,000 in mini-grants to recipients at Ashland Community and Technical College, Elizabethtown Community and Technical College, Gateway Community and Technical College, Henderson Community College, Hopkinsville Community College, and Western Kentucky University to continue their efforts to encourage near-completers to graduate.

Strategy 4.3: Increase the use of data, information, research, and technology to improve student learning and outcomes.

- At the quarterly meetings of the Committee on Persistence and Graduation, Council staff have presented longitudinal data on institutional graduation rates and achievement gaps.

Strategy 4.4: Support new pathways for adult learners to enroll and complete postsecondary degrees and credentials.

- The Council staff is facilitating the creation of Commonwealth College, an online competency-based pathway to bachelor's degrees for working adults. With support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Next Generation Learner Challenge Breakthrough Models Incubator program, CPE is working with representatives from the business community and WKU, KSU, and UofL to launch Commonwealth College in 2015.

Strategy 4.5: Secure adequate institutional funding to support high-quality faculty and staff, effective student and academic support services, technology enhancements, and other resources to enhance student success.

- At its November 7, 2013, meeting, the Council approved an institutional operating funds recommendation for submission to the Governor and General Assembly that contained increased funding requests of \$50.6 million in 2014-15 and \$51.9 million in 2015-16 for strategic investments that, had they been authorized, would have facilitated attainment of HB 1 and Strategic Agenda goals and objectives.
- The Council's 2014-16 budget recommendation for postsecondary institution operations included request components for college and career readiness, research and economic development, performance funding, UK/KSU land grant mission funds, and a Kentucky Adult Learner Initiative, all of which were well aligned with HB 1 goals and with objectives and strategies outlined in the Council's *Strategic Agenda for Postsecondary and Adult Education, 2011-15*.
- In addition to the operating funds request, the Council recommended that the Governor and General Assembly appropriate \$95.0 million in new funding for two Strategic Investment and Incentive Trust Fund programs. Specifically, the Council recommended an appropriation of \$8.4 million in recurring debt service to support a \$90.0 million bond issue for a fifth round of Bucks for Brains and an appropriation of \$468,000 in debt service for a \$5.0 million bond issue to support a new Workforce Development Match Program.
- Like the requested operating funds, no appropriations were authorized for either the Endowment Match Program or the Workforce Development Match Program. Had these requests been authorized, the Bucks for Brains funding would have been matched dollar for dollar with private donations to support research at the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville and to strengthen key programs at the comprehensive universities. The Workforce Development Program funds would have been matched with private giving and endowed to support ongoing KCTCS workforce education and training programs that stimulate business development, create jobs, and lead to a higher standard of living for Kentuckians.

Strategy 4.6: Promote student engagement, undergraduate research, internships, and other educational opportunities that improve the quality of the student experience, develop leaders, and lead to success after graduation.

- The Council hosted the second annual Kentucky Student Success Summit in April 2013. The theme of the summit was **Building Partnerships between Academic and Student Affairs: Creating a Holistic Approach to Student Success**, and it featured highly acclaimed experts in higher education research, such as Vincent Tinto.
- The Council will organize professional development opportunities over the next year to build on the best practices highlighted at the Kentucky Student Success Summit.
- Council staff has formed two new committees, composed of institutional representatives and other stakeholders, with responsibilities relevant to the improvement of the quality of student experiences. The Committee on Academic Quality will focus on the implementation of best practices related to the continuous improvement of student learning and the Committee on Persistence and Graduation will focus on root causes of student attrition and strategies to increase student engagement.

Strategy 4.7: Implement a statewide diversity policy that recognizes diversity as a vital component of the state's educational and economic development.

- The institutional Chief Academic Officers are focusing their efforts this year on gap closing and developing a more comprehensive process for addressing diversity.
- The Committee on Equal Opportunities oversees institutional compliance with 13 KAR 2:060 related to degree program eligibility. The CEO reviews institutional progress and makes recommendations for policy improvements to the Council. The January 28th meeting focused on graduate education and faculty diversity. The March 24th meeting highlighted undergraduate student initiatives to recruit, enroll, retain, and graduate diverse students. Specific strategies used by KCTCS, NKU, and UofL, for example, Super Sunday, NKU Rocks, Kentucky Latino Education Alliance, the African American Male Initiative, "Built to Graduate," and LGBT initiatives, were introduced.
- The 14TH Annual GMSCPP Statewide Conference will be hosted by Eastern Kentucky University on June 25-26, 2014. Two hundred students from across Kentucky are expected to participate in STEM+H activities.
- The 27TH Annual Academically Proficient High School Junior and Senior Diversity Conference will be hosted by Murray State University on June 13-14, 2014.
- SREB Doctoral Scholars, Graduates, and Faculty were honored at the January 28TH CEO meeting. Derrick Graham, state representative and chair of the General Assembly House Education Committee, attended the meeting. Eighteen scholars introduced themselves, identified their research, and discussed the importance of the SREB Doctoral Scholars Program to assist in meeting their educational and career goals.