



News from the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities

AIKCU Presidents meet with Governor Beshear

Governor Steve Beshear recently sat down with the presidents (or presidents' representatives) of AIKCU's member campuses at the Capitol. The meeting took place at the Governor's request and also included CPE President Bob King, AIKCU President Gary S. Cox, and the governor's Chief of Staff Adam Edelen.



The Governor and the presidents talked about a variety of issues surrounding postsecondary education in Kentucky, including: the critical roles that independent colleges and universities play in meeting the needs of Kentucky residents, the need for continued support of all of Kentucky's student aid programs, the importance of increasing alignment between K-12 and postsecondary education, ways that colleges and universities can aid in economic development, and opportunities for public and independent postsecondary institutions to work together to innovate and address Kentucky priorities.

Reported 2009-10 tuition increases average less than 5%

Kentucky's independent colleges and universities are doing their part to hold down costs for students and families in the coming academic year. While not all institutions have approved and reported their 2009-10 tuitions, those that have reported to AIKCU averaged only a 4.8% tuition increase. Most AIKCU institutions also report increasing their financial aid budgets for 2009-10 in anticipation of increased student need.

AIKCU campuses have always been a strong value, through a combination of relatively low tuition and generous financial aid. Thanks to the generosity of campus supporters, no student pays the true cost of a private college education. That value is enhanced by the fact that the average AIKCU tuition has historically been 1/3 lower than the national private college average and 1/4 lower than the Southern private college average. Average annual tuition increases have been between 6-7% for the sector over the last decade. AIKCU tuitions are discounted, on average, 35-40% off the published "sticker price." Virtually every student receives at least some form of financial aid.

AIKCU Copyright Workshop features renowned copyright expert from UNC

Around 40 representatives from AIKCU campuses - including academic deans, librarians, IT professionals, and faculty – as well as staff from the KY Virtual Library, came to Frankfort on April 15 for a Copyright Workshop led by renowned copyright expert Dr. Laura Gasaway, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor of Law at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. The copyright workshop was developed at the request of the AIKCU Librarian Directors group and coordinated by AIKCU's Steve Dooley. Support from the Kentucky School Boards Association and other AIKCU business partners, including Dell, IBM, and SIS, helped defray the cost of this valuable training for AIKCU members.

AIKCU interns spend semester in Frankfort working for state agencies

Five independent college students recently finished a semester working in Frankfort as part of the AIKCU Frankfort internship program. Students worked at least 30 hours per week for state agencies and completed two upper division seminar classes, taught by AIKCU Intern Coordinator and Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame member Richard Wilson and Dr. Amy Watts of the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center.

Interns and their agencies included: **Amy Anderson, Lindsey Wilson College – CPE; Jessica Boggs, Campbellsville University – Kentucky Historical Society; Emily Buckman, Campbellsville University – Department of Fish and Wildlife; John Graves, St. Catharine College – Office of Cabinet Secretary Larry Hayes; and Jeweli Wright, Asbury College – Cabinet for Health and Family Services.** To learn more about the internship program and see video of some the students reflecting on their experience, visit <http://www.aikcu.org/about/initiatives/frankfortinternships/>.

Kentucky Private College Week is June 15-19

Kentucky Private College Week will be held June 15-19, 2009. The event is a joint effort of Kentucky's 20 nonprofit, independent colleges and universities designed to make it easy for students and parents to discover and get a feel of the "fit" of several campuses in a short period of time. During KyPCW each AIKCU member campus hosts two daily sessions, at 9 am and 2 pm local time, that include a campus tour and information session about the admissions and financial aid process. Each session lasts about two hours to allow for travel time between campuses. For more information, visit <http://kentuckyprivatecolleges.org>.

For more AIKCU news, including a weekly graphic examining an important aspect of independent higher education in Kentucky, visit <http://www.aikcu.org>.