

**Council on Postsecondary Education
November 6, 2009**

Higher Education Work Group Report

Governor Beshear reconvened the Higher Education Work Group in June 2009 and redirected its efforts to the following priorities:

- Reviewing Kentucky's state financial aid programs (both need and merit) to ensure the system adequately meets the financial needs of students (adults and traditional age), and recommending changes to promote greater efficiency, transparency, and access in the system.
- Recommending strategies to increase the number of successful transfer students from two-year to four-year institutions for bachelor-degree completion, as well as promoting consistency in content and rigor among community colleges in terms of curricula.
- Recommending additional cooperative agreements and arrangements that will result in greater operating efficiencies and cost savings for Kentucky's colleges and universities.
- Reviewing proposals as they develop under the auspices of Senate Bill 1 to significantly decrease remediation levels.

The Higher Education Work Group met October 29 to adopt the final report which is due to Governor Beshear November 2. The recommendations represent the ideas with the greatest potential for producing positive, sustainable changes in postsecondary access and affordability within current budget constraints.

Most of the recommendations included in this report are for immediate action, as they require no additional revenue and can be implemented within a year. However, a few of the recommendations would depend on additional revenue for their implementation. These are included for future consideration or action, when economic conditions improve.