

Council on Postsecondary Education
January 16, 2009

State P-16 Council Report

At the December 2008 State P-16 Council meeting, members were advised of the current and pending budget cuts to much of the educational community. Education Secretary Helen Mountjoy explained the Governor's budget proposal based upon an increase in taxes on tobacco products and the implications for the P-16 Council. Secretary Mountjoy asked for continued collaboration of all agencies in pursuit of public funding stewardship. The P-16 Council approved a resolution in support of the Governor's proposed plan.

Ron Daley provided an update from the association of 22 local P-16 councils. The association met December 12 to hear presentations on regional stewardship activities. All local councils are being encouraged to apply for CPE competitive funding available to sustain their council activities.

Bill Bush, University of Louisville, reviewed the membership and mission of the Kentucky Committee for Mathematics Achievement. Initial activities of the committee include implementing a statewide primary mathematics intervention program, establishing a statewide mathematics coaching program, and establishing an intermediate/middle school intervention program. Dr. Bush reported the progress of the mathematics assessments in Kentucky including purpose, costs, strengths, and weaknesses and recommendations for improving assessments, which included reducing the number of standardized assessments to ensure a longitudinal approach and to address issues around the end-of-course assessments. Next steps will include differentiated instruction in high schools including resources, suggestions, high-quality professional development, and recruitment and retention of high-quality mathematics teachers.

Sue Cain, Eastern Kentucky University, was joined by Steve Newman and Paul Eakin of Northern Kentucky University and the University of Kentucky, respectively, who discussed their work with the statewide mathematics placement assessment. Collaborative efforts and local partnerships with K-12 school districts have resulted in progress with the Kentucky Online Testing (KYOTE) assessment now available free to all systems.

Lee Todd, president of the University of Kentucky and chair of the STEM2 Task Force, reported on the work of the task force and the need for public awareness about the critical need in Kentucky for STEM-disciplined graduates. He spoke of the recommendations that were presented in December to the Interim Joint Committees on Appropriations and Revenue and Education. This report, *The Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics 21st Century Implementation Plan* (in progress), is available online and includes many areas of responsibility for P-16 stakeholders (<http://cpe.ky.gov/committees/stem/default.htm>).

Robert Hackworth, Kentucky Department of Education, updated the group on the application for the U.S. Department of Education grant funding to continue the Kentucky Instructional Data System (KIDS) project and P-20 data warehouse. Robert Hackworth and Charles McGrew (CPE) recently attended a Southern Regional Education Board conference and learned the extensive critical issues involving student privacy and how Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requirements were being updated. There may be assistance available to Kentucky from SREB and the Gates Foundation to sort out the many requirements of FERPA and costs involved with a statewide data warehouse. In addition to aligning student P-16 data, the 2009 High School Feedback Report is being prepared. Plans are to expand the use of the feedback report to teacher preparation programs as well.

Gayle Hilleke and Eugene Blackburn with the Kentucky Campus Compact staff encouraged P-16 councils statewide to participate with KCC activities to engage students and communities in a service learning model. Recent KCC activities have included voter registration and civic engagement in the presidential election and the writing of proposals for addressing underage drinking on campuses. KCC is involved in international activities with a partnership in Russia addressing some agricultural needs while giving Kentucky students the opportunity to study and learn abroad.

The State P-16 Council plans to meet in March and June 2009.