

**Council on Postsecondary Education  
September 28, 2008**

**2008 Regional Stewardship Report to  
Kentucky General Assembly**

House Bill 380, enacted during the 2006 session of the Kentucky General Assembly, authorizes the creation of the Regional Stewardship Program and requires an annual report to the legislature by September 1. The attached report was sent to the legislature and highlights the progress achieved between August 2007 and July 2008. Some of the major accomplishments over the past year include:

- Consistent progress on building institutional capacity to be better regional partners.
- Approval of strategic plans and regional grant proposals for four universities.
- Approval of stewardship initiative proposals to implement six diverse initiatives in northern Kentucky.

One of the major achievements of the Regional Stewardship Program has been the creation of stronger relationships between universities and regional community leaders. This has been achieved partly through regional advisory committees that have helped guide the universities through the process of regional strategic planning and priority setting. These committee members serve as champions of the program and can help others understand how universities can work with them to improve the quality of life in their regions.

This program has created a great deal of momentum and enthusiasm both on campuses and in communities. University faculty and staff are eager to work with community partners to address problems. Community leaders view Kentucky's universities as important resources. While the Regional Stewardship Program is relatively new, it is hopeful that it will make major improvements in the areas of education, health, the environment, and the economy that will benefit all Kentuckians.

# **2008 Regional Stewardship Program Report to the Kentucky General Assembly**

## **Program Background and Overview**

The 2006 General Assembly, through House Bill 380, created the Regional Stewardship Program, which is administered by the Council on Postsecondary Education. The bill authorized funding of \$1.2 million in 2006-07 and \$3.6 million in 2007-08 for a Regional Stewardship Program. The 2008 General Assembly authorized \$3.0 million in 2008-2010 for the program.

Kentucky is still the first and only state with a publicly funded regional stewardship program, and we have emerged as a leader in the field. The Regional Stewardship Program has helped elevate the importance of this work among our comprehensive universities and their regional partners. Four of our institutions – Morehead State University, Northern Kentucky University, University of Kentucky, and Western Kentucky University – are among only 76 institutions in the country that have received the elective Community Engagement classification by The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. In addition, Eastern Kentucky University has submitted to The Carnegie Foundation its 2008 documentation and application for inclusion in the elective Community Engagement classification.

The purpose of the Regional Stewardship Program is to better connect the state's comprehensive universities with partners outside the academy to address regional needs. In order to improve the quality of life in Kentucky and realize the goals of *The Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997* (House Bill 1), our comprehensive universities are striving to be more effective partners in addressing social, economic, environmental, and educational issues.

This report will 1) highlight the progress and accomplishments of the program over the past year, 2) outline quantitative indicators of regional stewardship, 3) summarize successful partnerships that have been formed between universities and community partners, and 4) address some of the challenges the program has faced as well as the program's next steps.

## **Progress and Accomplishments**

There are three pools of funding in the Regional Stewardship Program. Each comprehensive university received \$200,000 in infrastructure funds and \$300,000 in regional grant funds over the past fiscal year. In addition, a \$480,000 competitive pool of stewardship initiative funds was available to the universities.

Infrastructure funds support the development and maintenance of organizational structures, personnel, information systems, and community relationships directed toward the

identification of regional needs, opportunities, and stewardship priorities. Appropriate uses for these funds include expenditures for a stewardship coordinator, stewardship staff, and related operating expenses.

Regional grant funds support comprehensive university efforts to build intellectual capacity in stewardship priority areas. Regional grant funds can be used to recruit and retain full-time faculty or professional staff in areas of strategic benefit to an area of geographic responsibility, as identified in an institution's strategic plan for regional stewardship and its priority area proposal, and as endorsed by a region's stewardship advisory committee. Appropriate uses for these funds include start-up costs, salaries, benefits, travel, and other professional expenses as permitted by university policy for new faculty or professional staff positions in targeted priority areas.

Stewardship initiative funds support the creation of partnerships and the execution of engagement activities that promote regional or statewide economic development, livable communities, social inclusion, and creative governance, while helping to achieve the goals of House Bill 1 and the Public Agenda. It is a competitive pool of money available to universities that have met all the requirements for regional grant funds.

## **Infrastructure Funds**

All comprehensive universities were required to submit plans to support the development and maintenance of organizational structures, personnel, information systems, and community relationships directed toward the identification of regional needs, opportunities, and stewardship priorities. The universities received \$400,000 over the past biennium to implement these infrastructure plans.

All universities have established Regional Advisory Committees of local government and community leaders, business and industry representatives, education leaders, policy professionals, interest groups, and citizens from across the university's area of geographic responsibility. These committees work with the universities to identify regional priorities. In addition, these advisory committees must approve the regional grant proposals before they are submitted to the Council.

Some of the progress that institutions have made is highlighted below:

Eastern Kentucky University has created an Office of Regional Stewardship and has appointed its first Director of Regional Stewardship. ECU has assembled its Regional Advisory Board (Committee) and Faculty Advisory Committee to help guide its stewardship efforts. The Office of Regional Stewardship is coordinating efforts with local and regional resources, through social service centers, in each of the counties within its area of geographic responsibility to develop a comprehensive program to school and community safety programs; school and community health programs; education programs emphasizing attendance, retention,

remediation, and dual credit offerings; noncredit education programs; workforce development, including co-op, programs; and entrepreneurship development programs.

Kentucky State University added a new position, Assistant Provost for Outreach and Extended Programs, and a portion of that position's time is scheduled for regional stewardship. The assistant provost works with the stewardship director on several projects, including coordination of engaged learning activities and data collection, distance education and workforce development initiatives. KSU has also revised its promotion and tenure policies to reflect the importance of engagement activities. This policy change is crucial to institutionalizing this type of work and is essential to the sustainability of these efforts.

Morehead State University, in order to strengthen the link between engagement, service learning, and the academic mission of the university, moved the American Democracy Project; Learning Leadership Community; Campus Compact; and Septemberfest, a civic engagement event, under the Center for Regional Engagement. MoSU is also developing an online searchable database of regional assets, which will allow both faculty and citizens to identify potential partners or sources of information and technical assistance to solve a particular problem.

At Murray State University, the Office of Regional Stewardship, in conjunction with the Office of Service Learning and Civic Engagement, hosted an engagement conference in February 2008. The conference highlighted national speakers and provided an important professional development opportunity for the approximately 200 participants. Similar to Morehead's efforts, Murray State is working on a Web-based outreach directory that will inventory the university's engagement activities.

University- community partnership grants at Northern Kentucky University provide funding for faculty to address social, educational, health and civic needs through a partnership with community organizations that enriches the learning functions of the university while increasing the region's capacity to address challenges. In addition, the NKU's 2007-08 strategic planning process required each academic unit to address regional stewardship. The result has been more alignment with regional stewardship goals and an increase in interdisciplinary initiatives related to regional stewardship.

Western Kentucky University's Alive Center for Community Partnerships is the hub for university engagement activities. WKU has implemented a Student Engagement Activities Transcript that allows students to document their co-curricular activities and reflect upon the learning that occurred as a result of their participation. In addition, WKU emphasizes the importance of regional stewardship to all prospective employees by including the following phrase in all job postings: "WKU is committed to promotion of Stewardship and Student Engagement."

## Regional Grant Funds

In addition to building institutional infrastructure to become more effective partners in community engagement, the Regional Stewardship Program provides regional grant funds for universities to build intellectual capacity in targeted priority areas.

Northern Kentucky University is on the forefront of regional stewardship efforts and submitted its regional grant proposal in August 2007. The \$300,000 is being used to build capacity in four areas - early childhood and literacy, mathematics education, mental health, and technology assistance.

NKU is in the process of hiring two full-time faculty members, two half-time faculty members, and one graduate assistant in early childhood education to work with two faculty members who were previously hired with regional stewardship funds that will be matched with university and other funds. Their work will be focused on assisting early childhood educators in evaluating and choosing an assessment tool for kindergarten readiness, offering professional development workshops for these educators, and assisting in the creation of a plan that will lead to providing a caring adult in each child's life.

NKU has hired a full-time mathematics professor who will start in January 2009. In the meantime, two current math faculty have conducted a literature review of high school mathematics education and have promoted the findings on the Kentucky Center for Mathematics' Web site. They also conducted a literature review and needs assessment of professional development programs for math education for adult educators. They also provided workshops for secondary teachers on the use of technology in mathematics pedagogy.

In the field of mental health, NKU has established a clinic that serves regional clients and provides students with experiential learning opportunities. NKU is currently searching for a full-time director for this clinic.

NKU is employing eight interns per semester in the Infrastructure Management Institute to provide information technology assessments and create Web sites for regional businesses, nonprofits, and government agencies.

At its May 23, 2008, meeting, the Council on Postsecondary Education approved the regional grant proposals for FY 2008-2009 for Kentucky State University, Murray State University, and Western Kentucky University and approved 2009-10 regional grant funds contingent upon successful implementation of institutional infrastructure plans and adequate progress on regional grant proposals.

Kentucky State University, through its regional advisory committee, identified priorities in the areas of innovative economy, livable communities, social inclusion, and collaborative governance. In order to address these priority areas, KSU will hire a full-time coordinator for a new Center for Engaged Learning, Workforce, and Community Development; two half-time

positions for the new Institute in Mathematics, Science, and Technology; and four graduate assistants to work with the Office of Regional Stewardship and the Center for Engaged Learning, Workforce, and Community Development.

As part of the new Center for Engaged Learning, Workforce, and Community Development, KSU will establish a Workforce Development Technical Assistance Institute to assist businesses in addressing the skill levels of their employees and applying to the American Council on Education College Credit Recommendation Service, which deals with transferring organizational training into college-bearing credits. It will also increase engaged learning and internship experiences for students and encourage the creation of networks of community leaders, educators, elected officials, business owners, and service providers to facilitate entrepreneurship education and create business incubators. KSU also plans to create an interdisciplinary institute to build on STEM area programs and to provide seminars and public forums focused on the advantages of using a collaborative, regional approach to development.

In order to increase educational levels in the region, KSU plans to develop a pilot partnership with regional school districts to help prepare students for college, including offering site-based AP classes upon request. The university will also develop an Institute on Teaching and Learning to identify teachers and students in need of academic support and to create teams to assist local schools with increasing student performance.

To improve the livability of the region's communities, the university will maximize its existing environmental education initiatives through the schools and develop a graduate program in environmental education. To address the needs of the governmental sector, KSU will create more structured leadership development courses, workshops, and programs for students and provide professional development for staff of nonprofit organizations.

Murray State University: While the regional advisory committee identified four major priorities of educational attainment, job creation, collaborative partnerships, and quality of life, the committee decided to focus the university's regional grant funds on educational attainment to make a major impact in that area. MuSU will maintain a Center for Educational Leadership Training to focus on educational leadership development in the region and help raise public school academic performance. As part of this effort, Murray State University will host a superintendent leadership academy in conjunction with the West Kentucky Educational Coop, develop a master's degree in educational leadership, and create a volunteer mentor program that matches retired superintendents and principals with existing personnel.

To enhance learning opportunities in the region, MuSU will develop a cultural diversity awareness series to showcase regional and national artists and explore ways to promote cultural diversity. In addition, the university will offset the cost of travel and increase the accessibility of regional schools to help students develop an appreciation for different cultures and to explore career options by having faculty visit the schools and encouraging attendance at cultural events held on campus throughout the year.

In order to address the need for teachers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and increase student interest in the STEM fields, MuSU will hire an outreach coordinator to direct Project Lead The Way and develop a mentoring program that allows university students to work with seventh and eighth grade students after school and during the summer. The university will also host design competitions throughout the region and organize a "Girls in Engineering Day."

The university will take the lead in creating partnerships between business and educational institutions. As part of this process, two community liaisons will focus on ways to utilize university faculty and staff expertise to address the needs of the region's employers, including business and industry, public schools, community colleges, and community agencies. A Center for Entrepreneurship will be created by combining several outreach centers on campus into one unit through the College of Business and Public Affairs and a regional grant writer will be hired to assist in securing future funding for Regional Stewardship project work in the region.

Western Kentucky University and its regional advisory committee, through the regional planning process, identified four priorities: nurturing communities, education, health care, and economic development. WKU will support three major initiatives to address these priorities. The university will hire a nurse practitioner for WKU's Institute for Rural Health Development and Research Mobile Health and Wellness Unit and two full-time counselors dedicated to meeting the needs of adult students. It will use remaining funds to create an engaged department grant fund to allow for faculty release time to focus on engagement work in the region.

In order to enhance the Institute for Rural Health Development and Research's services, the university will hire a nurse practitioner to develop an adult immunization program against influenza and pneumonia; screen and provide treatment options for individuals with diabetes, elevated cholesterol, and high blood pressure; develop lifestyle programs tied to diabetes management, heart disease prevention and maintenance, diet and exercise, and smoking cessation; and assist adults to determine eligibility for various programs and services and provide assistance with completion of required forms.

Two new counselors will help assimilate adult learners into the campus and connect students to the offices and services they need. These counselors will serve as the primary point of contact for adult students and potential adult learners and will help with problems and questions. They will work flexible hours to ensure services are accessible to working adults and travel to WKU regional campuses to provide on-site assistance and consultation. They will also work with academic units to develop new programming for adult learners.

In order to stimulate engagement efforts and address regional needs, funds will be used for faculty release time to participate in specific projects identified by community partners. The staff of the ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships will conduct two workshops per semester for faculty, staff, and students to introduce the purpose, guidelines, and support structure for these grants. ALIVE Center staff will conduct two workshops per semester for community

partners to explain the concept of these grants. An official designation of WKU ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships Fellow will be created for faculty and staff who exhibit exceptional efforts toward collaboratively addressing regional needs. The ALIVE Center will publish biannual reports that highlight campus-community partnerships.

Morehead State University: At the May 23, 2008 meeting, the Council approved Morehead State University's regional grant proposal and made FY 2008-09 and FY 2009-10 regional grant funding conditional upon successful implementation of the institution's infrastructure plan, the identification of specific metrics of success for the regional grant proposal, and adequate progress on the regional grant proposal. Morehead submitted proposed metrics on July 15, 2008.

MoSU conducted seven community forums throughout the regions. From this input, four common themes emerged: education, economic development/ entrepreneurship, health, and community building. To address these needs, the university will use regional stewardship funds to provide the equivalent of 2.5 professors at half-time release to work on a pilot multi-year initiative with the Martin County School District; one full-time position and the equivalent of two professors at half-time release to promote economic development and entrepreneurship; one full-time faculty and release time for two current health professors to expand an existing health project in Martin County; and two graduate students and the equivalent of two professors with .25 release time for community building work in the region.

MoSU will develop a 21st Century School Improvement project focused on embedded teacher professional development, 21st century skills, project-based learning, and the integration of digital media. The project will initially focus on the Martin County School District. MoSU and the Martin County School District will form a team to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment; develop and implement an action plan using workshops, embedded professional development, a Web-based learning community, and assessment; and build capacity through coaching. In a related initiative, the university will hold a competition to encourage project-based learning skills and competitions and convene an expert panel to review project-based learning examples to be included in a 21st Century Skills Center digital repository.

In order to stimulate entrepreneurship and economic development in the region, MoSU will work with the Small Business Development Center to create a tourism/agri-tourism program to create a cluster of culture/heritage/agriculture tourist businesses; formalize efforts to identify specific industry clusters to focus on economic development efforts; and collaborate with the Extreme Entrepreneurs Tour to bring this nationally recognized program to high school students in the university's area of geographic responsibility.

MoSU also plans to enhance an existing health program located in Martin County. University personnel will conduct health screenings in conjunction with Martin County health partners. Early in the fall 2008 semester, MoSU will convene a group of educators, health professionals and high school counselors to determine the greatest health issues facing young people. Subsequently a play addressing those issues will be developed and staged.

Educational enhancement materials and post-performance 'talk back' sessions conducted by guidance counselors and health professionals that extend the performances and benefits into the classroom will be available to the schools. Nursing students of the Associate Degree Nursing Program will work with NewHope Clinic in Owingsville, which provides ongoing free primary care to 2,050 indigent patients in the region.

As part of its community building efforts, the university, through its Leadership Training Center, will provide leadership training materials for local government and nonprofit organizations and offer leadership workshops for government officials and nonprofit staff. Through the Environmental Education Center, MoSU will co-host a watershed plan development and best management practices workshop in conjunction with community partners. The university will also purchase initial materials for the implementation of Flying Project Wild. As part of this program the EEC center will be training teachers and non-formal educators across MoSU's area of geographic responsibility.

Eastern Kentucky University: Because Eastern Kentucky University did not hire a regional stewardship coordinator until the end of the 2007-08 academic year, their regional stewardship work has progressed more slowly than anticipated. ECU has not yet submitted a regional strategic plan. In addition, there was no letter of endorsement from the regional advisory committee stating agreement with the regional grant proposal.

Regional grant money must be used to address needs identified in the strategic plan, which is developed by the regional advisory committee. Since no strategic plan was submitted, the regional grant proposal submitted by ECU could not be evaluated.

In the interest of promoting regional stewardship in eastern Kentucky and because the funds would lapse on June 30, 2008, the Council, at its May 23 meeting, decided to grant ECU \$300,000 in 2008 regional grant money on the condition these funds not be expended until ECU submits a regional strategic plan that clearly demonstrates regional input and consensus, submits a new regional grant proposal that is developed with input from the regional advisory committee and endorsed by the committee, and provides specific metrics of success in terms of both outputs and proposed outcomes in the region.

### **Stewardship Initiatives**

According to Council guidelines, stewardship initiatives funding supports specific public engagement activities that improve economic prosperity, quality of life, or civic participation while furthering the goals and mandates of House Bill 1 and the Public Agenda. These funds were distributed to the comprehensive universities on a competitive basis. Proposals for stewardship initiative funds were not considered until the institution's strategic plan for stewardship activities and regional grant proposal were submitted and approved and its regional grant funds were distributed. The original pool of funds was \$600,000 for FY 2006-08 but, due to state budget cuts, was reduced to \$484,000. Also, because of budget cuts, this funding pool was eliminated in FY 2008-10.

Because of Northern Kentucky University's pioneering work in the field, it was the only comprehensive university that was able to meet these requirements by the October 1, 2007, deadline for the first round of funding. NKU was awarded \$200,000 for two initiatives from that round of funding for the following projects.

#### Virtual CIO – Technology Stewardship for Small to Medium Organizations Including K-12, City and County Government and Business

The Infrastructure Management Institute at NKU provides significant outreach to small- and medium-sized businesses, local governments, and regional nonprofits. The Virtual CIO program helps these businesses assess their information technology needs and offers cost-effective solutions that represent value for the organizations and provide learning experiences for NKU students. The Virtual CIO program is also concentrating on documenting the needs of and offering new, lower cost solutions to the P-12 community.

A series of networking events have been organized and delivered to targeted businesses, public schools and nonprofits. The primary goal of these events is to encourage and support collaboration and innovation across sectors and organizations. These seminars include such topics as data security, business continuance, talent force development, and Web development. In addition, a collaboration portal is being developed to provide organizations with the latest information on numerous aspects of IT services and best practices, as well as provide direct linkages to programs within the IMI.

#### Summer Programs in Technology, Science, and World Cultures for Talented Youth in Northern Kentucky

To address the economic competitiveness goal of Vision 2015, the region's strategic plan, NKU developed three summer camps to help talented youth develop critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills, increase their awareness of local educational and career opportunities in science and technology, and prepare them to be global citizens. The College of Informatics is committed to sustaining these programs as they represent a key component of recruiting regional high school students into the IT field.

The College of Informatics is sponsoring a series of information technology camps. These camps include a one-week residential camp for 20 eleventh graders and a one-week day camp for an additional 20 students. In addition, three computer camps will be offered in the fall of 2008-09, targeting high school students in Kenton County schools. Each camp has a corporate sponsor and includes a significant linkage to potential careers in IT. Students will also visit IT-related firms as well as the corporate sponsors' place of business.

The World Cultures Camp is sponsored by the College of Education and Human Services. Two week-long sessions were scheduled in the summer of 2008 for children entering grades three through five with the overall goal of inspiring cultural awareness and appreciation of people and their cultures at home and around the world. Each focused on the cultures of a new region or country each day with the goals of creating cultural awareness and

maintaining the inquiry and enthusiasm of the student participants. Activities included films, talks, demonstrations, computer, and creative learning activities.

NKU was also the only institution eligible to compete for the second round of stewardship initiatives funding. The following proposals were approved by the Council on Postsecondary Education's Executive Committee on June 10, 2008.

#### Using Technology and the Environment to Entice Students and the Community Into the World of Science

NKU will give P-12 teachers Web access to chemistry demonstrations and experiments and conduct workshops for teachers, P-12 students, and community members related to the Ohio River and water quality. In order to achieve these objectives, NKU will develop an online chemistry demonstration database that will be available to faculty and local teachers for use in and out of the classroom. NKU will also host a two-day training in March 2009 for five northern Kentucky high schools on the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission Educational Foundation High School Curriculum. The curriculum provides a strong foundation for students who voyage aboard the PA Denny River Education Center, a floating classroom and laboratory for the Ohio River. NKU faculty will then lead 200 students from five high school classes that have implemented the ORSANCO Educational Foundation High School Curriculum on a four-hour boat ride where they will collect and assess water quality data from two monitoring sites. In addition, NKU faculty will develop and teach hands-on activities for two community programs that will be held aboard the PA Denny River Education Center, including a two-hour "Exploring the Ohio River" program for Elderhostel participants and a four-hour interactive boat ride for students participating in NKU's Fun with Science Camp.

NKU faculty will also deliver a hands-on workshop for teachers, education and natural science students at NKU, and local watershed volunteers that will focus on specialized sampling and biological monitoring techniques, develop multiple lab modules that will bring high school chemistry classes to NKU labs to conduct experiments with instrumentation that would otherwise not be available to them, and create a summer research experience for five high school students who will be paired with current NKU research students. Faculty will also develop a new elective laboratory course, "Connecting Chemistry with Community," in which students will have a required minimum number of service hours where they take their projects to the community or work with the community at NKU.

#### Next Generation Business Platforms Mobile and Web 2.0

NKU's College of Informatics will provide information and education for Web 2.0 and mobile platforms to regional businesses, nonprofits, and public agencies. Web 2.0 refers to the business concept of using Internet technology to spark creativity, increase information sharing, and build collaboration. In addition, there is a shift away from voice-intensive cellular technology to data-intensive mobile broadband, and organizations must understand how this trend affects them.

In order to achieve these objectives, NKU will conduct a two-day Web 2.0 “university” at the NKU Mets Center that will include an executive track and a technical track, conduct a wireless “university” at the NKU Mets Center to educate organizations and businesses around the wireless platform, facilitate at least two student projects for Web 2.0/mobile applications with local organizations and share their stories as case studies, and provide continued education around Web 2.0 and wireless after this initial project.

#### Addressing Community Health Needs: The Northern Kentucky Nursing Research Collaborative

The NKU Nursing Research Collaborative was established in 2006 to facilitate interdisciplinary relationships with local health care providers and nonprofit agencies. Through these partnerships, community-based interventions have been developed that will employ primary prevention strategies designed to improve the health status of northern Kentuckians. The NKNRC intends to use *Healthy Kentuckians 2010* and *Vision 2015 Goals* as benchmarks to mobilize a community-based interdisciplinary approach to research methods that describe health outcomes specific to northern Kentucky and apply research findings that ultimately improve the health status of northern Kentucky. NKU will use stewardship initiative funds to develop a solid organizational infrastructure with necessary administrative functions that support the growing capacity of the NKNRC.

#### Northern Kentucky Center for Educator Excellence

NKU will create a Northern Kentucky Center for Educator Excellence. The center’s mission and major objective is to foster collaboration in the northern Kentucky region to recruit, support, and retain highly qualified educators who will meet or exceed national standards. To achieve its mission, the center will develop and implement regional guidelines for teacher preparation, create a regional plan for focused and relevant professional development and integrate the regional plan into district plans, and develop and implement a process for distributing incentives to recruit and retain top-quality teachers and teacher candidates in northern Kentucky.

In addition, center staff will develop and implement a regional plan to encourage teachers to aspire to National Board Certification and support them in the process of obtaining the certification, create a system to track teacher turnover, identify the reasons why teachers leave northern Kentucky schools, and use this information to make changes that will reduce teacher attrition, and develop and implement procedures to measure teacher excellence in terms of student learning. The center will also work to develop Future Educators of America chapters in all area high schools to encourage and support secondary students who aspire to become teachers.

### **Successful Partnerships**

The Regional Stewardship Program is designed to stimulate regional development directly through program funds devoted to specific initiatives. However, it also serves to highlight the

importance and prestige of engaged research, teaching, and service, and catalyzes engagement work not directly supported by this funding program.

Comprehensive universities are currently involved in a number of successful partnerships. This report highlights just a few of these existing partnerships. With the Regional Stewardship Program, however, we expect to see an increase in the number of partnerships and the impact of these partnerships in the future.

#### Eastern Kentucky University

Through its provision of an Educational Extension Agent and the coordination of College of Education and Continuing Education and Outreach resources with Madison County School District resources, EKV is partnering with Madison County in the improvement of educational services designed to address attendance, retention, remediation, and dual credit offerings. The Education Extension Agent is also collaboratively designing programs that will facilitate reaching students at a younger age, promoting the importance of education, and developing educational opportunities suited to *local* needs, including math and literacy readiness, post-secondary readiness, vocational education, and career readiness.

These dual credit offerings are also being made available to Lincoln County high school students, and EKV is devising ways to broaden the reach of the offerings both to additional counties and throughout its service region via ITV and Web-based courses.

#### Kentucky State University

The Big Read of Frankfort brought students into the community to work with senior citizens in book discussion groups, theatrical performances, games and videotaping. The project is a partnership among Kentucky State University, the National Endowment for the Arts, Franklin County Public Schools, Paul Sawyer Public Library, several city and county governmental organizations, Frankfort/Franklin County Chamber of Tourism, the Frankfort's mayor's office, and several area senior citizen centers.

Reluctant or lapsed readers were attracted to the free books, supplemental materials, keynote speakers, games, opportunities for cultural enlightenment and lively discussion groups. The greatest impact on the community was the valuable collaboration and partnering opportunities that were created by bringing students into the community to work with senior citizens in book discussion groups, theatrical performances, games and videotaping. While KSU has been a part of the Frankfort community since 1886, many of the senior citizens have not had the opportunity to interact with the diverse student population on campus.

#### Morehead State University

MoSU has partnered with St. Claire Regional Medical Center and the University of Kentucky on a new \$30 million Center for Health, Education and Research. The 90,237-square foot facility will house MoSU's departments of nursing and imaging sciences, UK's physician assistant and family nurse practitioner programs, and St. Claire Regional's family medicine clinic and health education center.

UK is working with MoSU and St. Claire Regional Medical Center with its College of Medicine in the Rural Physician Leadership Track, a plan to increase the number of physicians opting to practice in East Kentucky. Ten additional students will be recruited each year, and the first group will have its third and fourth years in the new building at St. Claire Regional.

The family medicine clinic will serve as the primary training site for the St. Claire Regional/UK family practice residency program. The comprehensive health education center will be designed to accommodate a wide range of continuing education/workshop programs, teleconferencing and telemedicine initiatives, specialized professional development/enrichment opportunities for health care providers, and rural health research activities. The space for MoSU's departments of nursing and imaging sciences will include lecture and laboratory classrooms to support the associate and baccalaureate degree nursing programs, the radiologic technology program, and the sonography, computed tomography, and magnetic resonance program options. Space will also be provided for anticipated growth in these programs and the planned implementation of new master's degrees in nursing and in nuclear medicine. Similar space will be available to support UK's master's-level programs for physician assistants and advanced nurse practitioners.

#### Murray State University

Early in the fall 2007 semester, MuSU entered into a new three-year partnership with the Kentucky Association of Manufacturing. As an official sponsor of SmartKentuckysm, Murray State will partner with KAM to improve quality of life through education and training to prepare students for successful manufacturing careers. For example, academic departments at Murray State may utilize KAM contacts for feedback on academic offerings as well as on specifics that need to be taught in the classroom to keep students abreast of new manufacturing processes, standards, and management styles.

In addition, the university's Office of Sponsored Programs utilized KAM as a source of information that helped secure a federal U.S. Department of Labor grant for Community-Based Job Training for the area of geographic responsibility. Working in conjunction with Hopkinsville Community College as the lead institution, MuSU's Regional Stewardship and Outreach Office was instrumental in bringing the key leaders together to support the grant. As a result \$2.3 million was secured to create Project ITEM (Industrial Talent Enhancement Model). This synergistic, regional approach brought together numerous partners to address capacity-building of manufacturers' critical training needs in the 18-county area of west Kentucky. The training partners currently include West Kentucky and Green River Workforce Investment Boards, Hopkinsville Community College, Henderson Community College, Madisonville Community College, West Kentucky Community and Technology College, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Southern Pennyryle, Pennyryle Industrial Managers Association, numerous Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Corporations in the region as well as Murray State University and Kentucky Manufacturers Association.

ITEM training activities, as requested by regional manufacturers, incorporates a flexible, easily accessible, web-based training system with accelerated and targeted face-to-face instruction. Hands-on laboratory work for core and advanced training modules will be available at

various sites. ITEM will increase skills of the current workforce, serve the unemployed, underemployed or displaced worker, and encourage students in grades 6 through 12 to seek training through a mentoring program. ITEM will not only address the need to fill existing jobs in the region, but will enhance economic development efforts to increase manufacturing production levels and attract new industries to the region over the next three years.

#### Northern Kentucky University

CPE Regional Stewardship funds have allowed the university to better address one of the region's most compelling problems of early childhood education. Early childhood is the top priority of the region's Vision 2015 plan. The early childhood faculty who were funded by the CPE have been the lynchpin for establishing both research and consultation to the region's early childhood providers and stakeholders.

These consultations have helped identify common early childhood assessments, best practice for early childhood day care centers, and professional development opportunities. NKU faculty have been very visible and accessible in the community and have received much praise. Currently many of the early childhood practices identified by the NKU faculty are being not only put into practice but institutionalized via routine, professional development seminars and institutes.

#### Western Kentucky University

The Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the Gordon Ford College of Business at WKU and the Lincoln Trail Innovation Center have been awarded a \$400,000 contract by the Lincoln Trail Area Development District to develop and launch an Entrepreneurial Academy of Excellence in the Lincoln Trail region.

The Entrepreneurial Academy of Excellence will develop a year-round program to catalyze and support innovation, entrepreneurship and economic growth for the region. The Academy will assist current and future entrepreneurs to develop skills and tools to take their ideas for products and services from an idea stage to the business start up stage. The Academy will link entrepreneurs with the existing services of the Small Business Development Center and the Lincoln Trail Innovation Center to help participants gain access to resources and expertise needed to conduct feasibility studies, to develop business plans, and to raise capital for start up costs.

This is an important initiative to help support innovative efforts for economic development for the Lincoln Trail region by fostering an entrepreneurial community and nurturing entrepreneurs to translate their dreams into realities, at the same time creating jobs and a tax base for the region.

## Key Indicators of Regional Stewardship

The CPE worked with the regional stewardship directors and others on each campus to devise quantitative key indicators of regional stewardship to supplement the qualitative elements of the program's annual report. CPE will use these data in its evaluation of the Regional Stewardship Program. In addition, these data will serve as the key indicators of engagement for CPE's annual accountability report centered around the five questions of the public agenda. More specifically, the data will be used to evaluate Question 5: Are Kentucky's People, Communities, and Economy Benefiting?

All universities will use Digital Measures, a faculty reporting software system, to collect these data in future years. The universities are currently at different stages in the process of implementing this software system. Using a faculty reporting software eliminates the need to collect regional stewardship data separately. Faculty will report their engagement efforts along with other information that is used for faculty activity reporting as well as promotion and tenure decisions.

The data reporting guidelines were finalized in April 2008. Because institutions were at different stages of data collection when the guidelines were finalized, this year's data are not a comprehensive baseline of regional stewardship activities. The data are included in this report simply to indicate the types and amount of data that will be available in next year's annual report to the General Assembly.

## Regional Stewardship Key Indicators, Academic Year 2007-2008\*

| <b>1. Boards, committees, and commissions</b>   | <b>EKU</b> | <b>KSU</b> | <b>MoSU</b> | <b>MuSU</b> | <b>NKU</b> | <b>WKU</b> |
|---|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| • Number of boards, committees, or commissions on which faculty and staff serve                           | 251        | 62         | 334         | 212         | 301        | 175        |
| • Number of faculty and staff serving on boards, committees, or commissions                               | 216        | 35         | 146         | 110         | 193        | 86         |
| <b>• Number of board, committee, or commission memberships (both faculty and staff) by strategic area</b> |            |            |             |             |            |            |
| • Agriculture   | 8          | 5          | 37          | 35          | 1          | 11         |
| • Arts, culture, and recreation   | 28         | 14         | 75          | 19          | 37         | 13         |
| • Birth through preschool   | 1          | 0          | 12          | 23          | 8          | 4          |
| • Economic development  | 26         | 4          | 56          | 13          | 11         | 0          |
| • Environment   | 6          | 8          | 26          | 10          | 10         | 4          |
| • Health care   | 145        | 3          | 58          | 16          | 34         | 19         |
| • K-12  | 118        | 10         | 65          | 48          | 58         | 6          |
| • Public safety   | 6          | 4          | 26          | 2           | 2          | 3          |
| • Science and technology  | 49         | 13         | 26          | 15          | 37         | 17         |
| • Social services   | 23         | 1          | 62          | 31          | 18         | 14         |
| <b>2. Publications and presentations related to public engagement</b>                                     |            |            |             |             |            |            |
| • Number of engagement-related publications   | 352        | 3          | 130         | 164         | 47         | 58         |
| <b>• Number of publications and presentations by strategic area</b>                                       |            |            |             |             |            |            |
| • Agriculture   | 6          | 0          | 25          | 49          | N/A        | 25         |
| • Arts, culture, and recreation   | 5          | 0          | 28          | 27          | N/A        | 0          |
| • Birth through preschool   | 3          | 0          | 9           | 6           | N/A        | 0          |
| • Economic development  | 12         | 0          | 22          | 29          | N/A        | 1          |
| • Environment   | 42         | 0          | 23          | 2           | N/A        | 12         |
| • Health care   | 218        | 3          | 24          | 2           | N/A        | 2          |
| • K-12  | 69         | 0          | 25          | 34          | N/A        | 0          |
| • Public safety   | 16         | 0          | 18          | 0           | N/A        | 1          |
| • Science and technology  | 27         | 0          | 33          | 8           | N/A        | 2          |
| • Social services   | 10         | 0          | 28          | 7           | N/A        | 4          |

|   | EKU   | KSU | MoSU  | MuSU | NKU  | WKU   |
|---|-------|-----|-------|------|------|-------|
| <b>3. Service learning courses</b>  |       |     |       |      |      |       |
| • Number of service learning courses offered in academic year                                   | 12    | N/A | 55    | 38   | 56   | 76    |
| • Enrollment in service learning courses in academic year                                       | 223   | N/A | 1593  | 765  | N/A  | 592   |
| • Estimated number of hours students collectively contributed to partner agencies/organizations | 62615 | N/A | 78970 | 8400 | N/A  | 25318 |
| <b>4. Engagement partnerships</b>   |       |     |       |      |      |       |
| • Number of partnerships  | 481   | 12  | 351   | 41   | 226  | 44    |
| • Number of faculty and staff involved in partnerships  | 713   | 18  | 155   | 43   | 116  | 32    |
| • Number of students involved in partnerships   | 1401  | 647 | 1972  | 64   | 3167 | 1022  |
| <b>• Number of partnerships by strategic area</b>   |       |     |       |      |      |       |
| • Agriculture   | 0     | 3   | 24    | 1    | 1    | 0     |
| • Arts, culture, and recreation   | 17    | 2   | 72    | 1    | 21   | 4     |
| • Birth through preschool   | 1     | 0   | 18    | 3    | 0    | 0     |
| • Economic development  | 238   | 0   | 47    | 5    | 6    | 1     |
| • Environment   | 5     | 2   | 28    | 0    | 20   | 8     |
| • Health care   | 13    | 3   | 43    | 3    | 13   | 10    |
| • K-12  | 51    | 0   | 114   | 24   | 104  | 1     |
| • Public safety   | 55    | 0   | 24    | 0    | 2    | 0     |
| • Science and technology  | 13    | 2   | 34    | 3    | N/A  | 0     |
| • Social services   | 24    | 0   | 69    | 1    | 7    | 1     |
| <b>• Number of partnerships by sector</b>   |       |     |       |      |      |       |
| • Government  | 158   | 9   | 101   | 28   | N/A  | 2     |
| • Nonprofits  | 85    | 3   | 127   | 12   | N/A  | 25    |
| • Business and Industry   | 217   | 0   | 46    | 1    | N/A  | 5     |
| <b>• Number of partnerships by type of engagement</b>   |       |     |       |      |      |       |
| • Outreach Instruction to Children/P-12 Students  | 59    | 5   | 113   | 7    | 127  | 2     |
| • Outreach Instruction to Teachers  | 3     | 1   | 63    | 2    | 35   | 0     |
| • Outreach Instruction to Community-Based Organizations   | 37    | 0   | 63    | 8    | 0    | 5     |
| • Research/Technical Assistance/Disciplinary Expertise  | 4     | 4   | 46    | 8    | 87   | 11    |
| • Clinical Service  | 63    | 0   | 25    | 6    | 7    | 6     |
| • General Public Events or Information Sessions   | 20    | 12  | 89    | 5    | 77   | 3     |
| • Targeted Audience Events or Information Sessions  | 13    | 0   | 63    | 5    | 91   | 15    |

|                                    | EKU | KSU | MoSU | MuSU | NKU | WKU |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|------|------|-----|-----|
| • Number of partnerships by county | N/A | N/A |      |      | N/A |     |
| • Allen                            |     |     |      |      |     | 5   |
| • Ballard                          |     |     |      | 0    |     |     |
| • Barren                           |     |     |      |      |     | 6   |
| • Bath                             |     |     | 63   |      |     |     |
| • Boyd                             |     |     | 60   |      |     |     |
| • Breathitt                        |     |     | 36   |      |     |     |
| • Butler                           |     |     |      |      |     | 2   |
| • Caldwell                         |     |     |      | 0    |     |     |
| • Calloway                         |     |     |      | 21   |     |     |
| • Carlisle                         |     |     |      | 0    |     |     |
| • Carter                           |     |     | 57   |      |     |     |
| • Christian                        |     |     |      | 3    |     |     |
| • Crittenden                       |     |     |      | 0    |     |     |
| • Daviess                          |     |     |      |      |     | 1   |
| • Edmonson                         |     |     |      |      |     | 3   |
| • Elliott                          |     |     | 48   |      |     |     |
| • Fleming                          |     |     | 44   |      |     |     |
| • Floyd                            |     |     | 37   |      |     |     |
| • Fulton                           |     |     |      | 0    |     |     |
| • Graves                           |     |     |      | 7    |     |     |
| • Greenup                          |     |     | 40   |      |     |     |
| • Henderson                        |     |     |      | 0    |     |     |
| • Hickman                          |     |     |      | 0    |     |     |
| • Hopkins                          |     |     |      | 3    |     |     |
| • Johnson                          |     |     | 39   |      |     |     |
| • Knott                            |     |     | 35   |      |     |     |
| • Lawrence                         |     |     | 40   |      |     |     |
| • Letcher                          |     |     | 33   |      |     |     |
| • Lewis                            |     |     | 38   |      |     |     |
| • Livingston                       |     |     |      | 0    |     |     |
| • Logan                            |     |     |      |      |     | 2   |

|                                    | <b>EKU</b> | <b>KSU</b> | <b>MoSU</b> | <b>MuSU</b> | <b>NKU</b> | <b>WKU</b> |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| • Number of partnerships by county | N/A        | N/A        |             |             | N/A        |            |
| • Lyon                             |            |            |             | 0           |            |            |
| • Magoffin                         |            |            | 38          |             |            |            |
| • Marshall                         |            |            |             | 1           |            |            |
| • Martin                           |            |            | 39          |             |            |            |
| • Mason                            |            |            | 44          |             |            |            |
| • McCracken                        |            |            |             | 4           |            |            |
| • Menifee                          |            |            | 58          |             |            |            |
| • Montgomery                       |            |            | 73          |             |            |            |
| • Morgan                           |            |            | 66          |             |            |            |
| • Pike                             |            |            | 37          |             |            |            |
| • Rowan                            |            |            | 97          |             |            |            |
| • Simpson                          |            |            |             |             |            | 4          |
| • Trigg                            |            |            |             | 0           |            |            |
| • Union                            |            |            |             | 1           |            |            |
| • Webster                          |            |            |             | 1           |            |            |
| • Wolfe                            |            |            | 39          |             |            |            |

## Challenges, Opportunities, and Next Steps

The Regional Stewardship Program has served to enhance universities' relationships with community leaders and elevate the importance of stewardship activities on each campus. Randy Dunn, president of MuSU, has worked diligently to make regional stewardship a priority on his campus. In President Dunn's words, "I feel the distinct calling of the comprehensive state university is outreach to and stewardship of the place it is asked to serve." The program has created momentum and enthusiasm for tackling tough social, economic, health, and environmental problems, which is needed to improve the quality of life in the Commonwealth.

While the program focuses at the regional level, the whole state benefits. According to Arthur Green, Todd County Judge Executive and chair of WKU's Regional Stewardship Advisory Council, "The concept of the Regional Stewardship Program is one that ignores the boundaries of counties and political entities in order to meet the needs of the citizens of our region. WKU has embraced this concept and with the assistance of program funding, the possibilities are endless; however, to be successful we must ignore our boundaries and work together. With the knowledge obtained together we can realize the total of the possibilities of the commonwealth of Kentucky and these regional programs will expand to a greater network of community."

Although comprehensive data were not available for this year's report, one of the major accomplishments of the Regional Stewardship Program has been the creation of a data collection system to inventory engagement efforts and reward faculty and staff for their regional stewardship efforts. Based on a suggestion from Northern Kentucky University, all universities decided to utilize Digital Measures, a faculty activity reporting software system. Information about regional stewardship activities, including teaching, research, and outreach to the community, can be captured with this software. However, the software can be used for all types of faculty activity reporting, so the universities have incorporated engagement activities into existing faculty evaluation efforts, thus streamlining the process and eliminating the need to do separate reporting for engagement activities.

Because of the Regional Stewardship Program, there is an increased emphasis on regional planning and collaboration to implement those plans. In an era of tight resources, strategic planning and partnerships to implement these plans are critical to solving tough problems.

As with many state-funded programs, recent budget cuts have impacted our regional stewardship efforts. Infrastructure funds were rolled into each university's base funding, and the regional grants pool was preserved in CPE's budget for the 2008-10 biennium. However, the stewardship initiatives pool was cut from \$600,000 to \$484,800 in the 2006-08 biennium, and the pool has been eliminated for the upcoming biennium. Unfortunately, these cuts came at a time when regional advisory

committees, partner organizations, and the universities were building the momentum to address regional issues. These funding cuts have naturally created concerns about the sustainability of these efforts. But Kentucky's comprehensive universities are committed to the principles of regional stewardship and will work with their partners to achieve results with the funds that are available to them. In the future, the CPE and each university would like to expand this program to achieve its maximum impact and continue the momentum that has been built over the last two years.