

**Council on Postsecondary Education
Quality and Accountability Policy Group
May 23, 2008**

**Regional Stewardship Program Regional Grants:
Morehead State University**

ACTION: The staff recommends that the Council approve the regional grant proposal from Morehead State University and that FY 2008-09 and FY 2009-10 regional grant money be conditional upon successful implementation of the university's regional stewardship infrastructure plan, the identification of specific metrics of success for the regional grant proposal, and adequate progress on the regional grant proposal.

Morehead State University 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.

1. **Education.** 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.
 - MoSU will hold a competition to encourage project-based learning skills and competitions.
 - MoSU will convene an expert panel to review project-based learning examples to be included in a 21st Century Skills Center digital repository.
 - MoSU will hold trainings to address the region's school drop-out problem.
 - The model developed will be used to assist additional districts in improving student success.

2. **Economic Development/Entrepreneurship.** In order to stimulate entrepreneurship and economic development in the region, the university 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.
- Provide entrepreneurship training for youth.

3. **Health.** The university plans to enhance an existing program located in Martin County.

University personnel will:

- Conduct health screenings in conjunction with Martin County health partners.
- Provide health education talks to elementary and secondary students.
- Provide drug education for elementary and secondary students.
- Create materials such as videos and software for a variety of venues and learners.
- Create positive reinforcement messages through various interactive media that will be suitable for all age levels.
- Lessons learned from the initiative will be used to promote effective health in other counties in the region.

4. **Community Building.** As part of its community building efforts, the university will:

- Provide leadership training materials for local government and nonprofit organizations.
- Offer leadership workshops for government officials and nonprofit staff.
- Develop and distribute educational materials for use in high schools and the university.
- Help schools with curriculum development through the university's Environmental Education Center.
- Conduct school workshops.

Accountability

As part of House Bill 380 of the 2006 session of the Kentucky General Assembly, the legislature requires an annual accountability report on the Regional Stewardship Program. The Council staff, working with university representatives, has developed guidelines for progress reports. In addition, all regional stewardship funds are made available through a memorandum of agreement that clearly outlines the goals that must be met to ensure continued funding.

In order to ensure accountability, future regional grant funds will depend on successful implementation of the infrastructure plans submitted by the universities, as well as adequate progress on activities outlined in these regional grant proposals. In addition, MoSU must respond to questions about the current proposal posed by staff via email on April 29, 2008. More specifically, MoSU must provide specific metrics of success for the projects identified in the regional grant proposal. After submitting these metrics and clarifications, MoSU must make adequate progress, as determined by the Council staff, on the proposed regional grant projects before additional regional grant funds will be disbursed.