Officers

Pam Miller, Lexington
Chair

Rebecca S. Goss, Harlan
Secretary/Treasurer

Members

Madeline Abramson, Louisville
Norma B. Adams, Somerset
A.D. Albright, Wilmore
Daniel L. Ash, Louisville
Monica Baker, Hopkinsville
Cynthia D. Baumert, Louisville
William E. Beasley, Paducah
John P. Bell, M.D., Louisville
Jackie Betts, Lexington
Robert Biagi, Shelbyville
Gary Bricking, Ft. Mitchell
Bob Brown, Lexington
Patricia Brundage, Covington
Raymond M. Burse, Prospect
Ellen Call, Louisville
Donna A. Chu, Paducah
Martha Layne Collins, Lexington
Sam Corbett, Louisville
Daphine Cox, Hopkinsville
Beverly Dalton, Bowling Green
Sim Davenport, Owensboro
Harold Dexter, Bowling Green
Jean M. Dorton, Paintsville
Karen Dougherty, M.D., Hopkinsville
Adam Edelen, Lexington
Donna M. Engle, Hazard
Richard FitzGerald, Louisville
Arnold Gaither, Lexington
Pat Gish, Whitesburg
Jane Graham, Lexington
Lois Gray, Glasgow
Kevin Hable, Louisville
Jean R. Hale, Pikeville
Donna S. Hall, Lexington
Necia Harkless, Lexington
Billy Harper, Paducah
Joy Edwards Hembree, Lexington
Marnie C. Holoubek, Lexington
Sylvia Watson Jaegers, Louisville
Esther P. Jansing, Owensboro
JoAnn T. Johnson, Princeton
Martha C. Johnson, Covington
Doug Jones, Morehead
Cheryl Karp, Louisville
Judy Kasey, Louisville
Joseph W. Kelly, Lexington
Dan Lacy, Covington
Ric Ladt, Paducah
Carol Lamm, Berea
Philip M. Lanier, Louisville
Marion Lewis, Louisville
Mary Jane Littleton, Murray
Kathy G. Lousignont, Lexington
Fannie Louise Maddux, Pembroke
Elissa May-Plattner, Camp Springs
William McCann, Lexington
Lewis N. Melton, P.E., Middlesboro
Gary Mielcarek, Louisville
Wade Mountz, Louisville
P. Daugherty Murphy, Louisville
Lynn O'Keefe, Bowling Green
Henry Ormsby, Louisville
Charlie Owen, Louisville
Col Owens, Covington
Kent Oyler, Louisville
Laura A. Pitman, Murray
Hiram C. Polk, Jr., M.D., Louisville
Margaret G. Pope, Paducah
Marie Porter, Louisville
Louis Prichard, Paris
Vicky Perkinson Rand, Bedford
Kathy Reed, Bardstown
Teresa Combs Reed, Ary
Josephine D. Richardson, Whitesburg
Eddy Roberts, Louisville
Jill E. Robinson, Frankfort
Jean Rosenberg, Prestonsburg
Keith Sanders, Owensboro
Vivian Ruth Sawyer, Louisville
Pamela Papka Sexton, Lexington
Phillip J. Shepherd, Frankfort
Albert P. Smith, Jr., Lexington
Alice Sparks, Crescent Springs
Joan Taylor, Lexington
Roxie R. Tempus, Smithland
J. Maynard Thomas, Catlettsburg
Lynda M. Thomas, Lexington
Bige W. Towery, Jr., Mt. Vernon
Barney A. Tucker, Lexington
Peggy Wallace, Barbourville
Lois Weinberg, Hindman
Mary Gwen Wheeler, Louisville
Greg Wilder, Georgetown
Harvie Wilkinson, Lexington
William H. Wilson, Lexington

HONORARY MEMBER
Dorothy S. Ridings, Louisville

Researchers Tally Cost of Inadequate Education

The U.S. loses out on hundreds of billions of dollars in lost productivity and tax revenue each year when young people fail to graduate from high school. The lack of students getting a full education also burdens the nation's health care, public assistance and criminal justice systems, according to research presented at an October symposium at Teachers College at Columbia University in New York City.

The large number of students who get an inadequate education also stifles U.S. economic competition and reduces civic engagement, according to the meeting which strived to outline the social costs of students not reaching their full potential.

Among the findings presented at the meeting:

■ A high school dropout earns about $260,000 less over a lifetime than a high school graduate and pays about $60,000 less in taxes.

■ Annual losses exceed $50 billion in federal and state income taxes for all 23,000,000 U.S. high school dropouts ages 18 to 67.

■ The U.S. loses $192 billion in combined income and tax revenue losses with each cohort of 18-year-olds who never complete high school. Increasing the educational attainment of that cohort by one year would recoup nearly half those losses.

■ Health-related losses for the estimated 600,000 high school dropouts in 2004 totaled at least $58 billion, or nearly $100,000 per student.

■ High school dropouts have a life expectancy that is 9.2 years shorter than high school graduates.

■ The U.S. could save between $7.9 billion and $10.8 billion annually by improving educational attainment among all recipients of welfare and housing assistance.

■ A one-year increase in average years of schooling for dropouts would reduce murder and assault by almost 30 percent, motor vehicle theft by 20 percent, arson by 13 percent, and burglary and larceny by about 6 percent.

■ There will be a shortfall of 7 million college-educated workers in America by 2012.

■ Participation in model preschool programs has been shown to boost academic achievement, reduce dropout rates, and lower the risk of teen parenting, drug use and criminal violence. The economic benefits of such programs range as high as $7 for each dollar invested.

■ College graduates are three times more likely to vote than Americans without a high school degree.

The research presented by The Campaign for Educational Equity at Teachers College found that the social costs described are highest among students from low-income, minority backgrounds.

"Educational inequity is first and foremost an issue of justice and fairness, but the research findings we're presenting today show that it is also an issue that affects all of us in our daily lives — and will affect our children even more so," said Henry M. Levin, a professor of economics and education at Teachers College.

Materials from the meeting, including the full report are available online at www.tc.columbia.edu/centers/EquityCampaign/symposium/resource.asp.

Sextons Honored for 25 Years of Prichard Work

The Prichard Committee honored Robert and Pam Sexton for 25 years of work with the group at a dinner at the Woodford Reserve Distillery in Woodford County on the night before the group's fall meeting. Both Sextons were a part of the citizens' committee created in 1980 to study ways of improving Kentucky's universities. The group became the Prichard Committee in 1983. Bob Sexton has been the group's executive director since its inception, with Pam Sexton serving on the committee. In addition to individual tributes, the Prichard Committee staff gathered to perform a song recognizing the couple's leadership (bottom right).