

Council on Postsecondary Education
February 3, 2011

2011-15 Strategic Agenda

ACTION: The CPE Strategic Agenda Work Group recommends that the Council approve the 2011-15 Strategic Agenda for Postsecondary and Adult Education.
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KRS 164.020 lays out 37 distinct powers and duties for the Council on Postsecondary Education, the first of which is that the Council develop and implement a strategic agenda for postsecondary and adult education. KRS 164.0203 elaborates on the purpose of the agenda and its critical role in achieving the vision articulated in the Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997 (HB1):

The purpose of the strategic agenda is to further the public purposes under KRS 164.003 by creating high-quality, relevant, postsecondary education and adult education opportunities in the Commonwealth. The strategic agenda shall:

- 1. Serve as the public agenda for postsecondary education and adult education for the citizens of the Commonwealth, providing statewide priorities and a vision for long-term economic growth;*
- 2. State those important issues and aspirations of the Commonwealth's students, employers, and workforce reflecting high expectations for their performance and the performance of the educational institutions and providers that serve them; and*
- 3. Sustain a long-term commitment for constant improvement, while valuing market-driven responsiveness, accountability to the public, technology-based strategies, and incentive-based motivation.*

The Council has embraced this charge, and since 1997 the strategic agenda has been reviewed and updated twice. The attached document represents the third iteration and is the result of over a year of work and numerous contributors including CPE members and staff, institutional planners, provosts, campus presidents, chief business officers, representatives from the business community, KDE, the Economic Development Cabinet, and other agencies and organizations.

The theme of the new agenda is Stronger by Degrees, which recognizes that increasing degree production and improving the educational attainment of the population is critical to Kentucky's economy and quality of life. The agenda highlights four key policy areas that will demand sustained attention over the next four to five years if Kentucky is to make significant progress toward the goals and vision articulated in the 1997 reform legislation. They are: college readiness; student success; research, economic, and community development; and efficiency and innovation.

The proposed agenda also includes updated mission, vision, and value statements for postsecondary and adult education, as well as performance metrics and statewide objectives and strategies to guide work in each of the four areas of policy focus.

While the Council is being asked to formally approve only the Strategic Agenda which includes the state, regional, and institutional performance metrics, other supporting documents will be available for review and discussion at the meeting, including:

- An overview of the proposed comprehensive accountability process.
- State level implementation plans for each of the strategies.

Over the next several months, CPE staff and institutional representatives will meet regularly to negotiate statewide and institution-level performance targets based on the metrics adopted at the February 3 meeting. The targets are scheduled for CPE approval in April 2011.