

## MEETING MINUTES

Reviewed and approved by the Committee on November 15, 2024

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Who: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education  
Meeting Type: Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee  
Date: September 9, 2024  
Time: 10:00 a.m. ET  
Location: Virtual Meeting via ZOOM Webinar

### CALL TO ORDER

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The Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee met Monday, September 9, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., ET. The meeting occurred virtually via ZOOM webinar. Committee Chair Karyn Hoover presided.

### ROLL CALL

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Attended: Dr. Kellie Ellis, Dr. Meredith Figg, Karyn Hoover, LaDonna Rogers, Kevin Weaver

Did not attend: Chloe Marsteller

Heather Faesy, CPE's Senior Associate for Board Relations, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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The minutes of the June 10, 2024, meeting were approved as distributed.

### PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM

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Dr. Melissa Bell, Ph.D., CPE's Vice President of Academic Excellence, introduced one new academic program for review and approval. KRS 164.020 (15) empowers the Council on Postsecondary Education to define and approve the offering of all postsecondary education technical, associate, baccalaureate, graduate, and professional degree, certificate, or diploma programs in the public postsecondary education institutions.

Council staff reviewed the proposed program and recommended approval.

#### Master of Social Work (CIP 44.0701) – Morehead State University

Presented by: Monica Hines, Program Director and Associate Professor of Social Work

- The 30-credit hour program is designed to increase the number of critically needed social work professionals, targeting issues related to behavioral health and substance use. Master's level social workers are in high demand in Eastern Kentucky and can be

immediately employed as clinicians, practitioners, program administrators, policy analysts, and researchers. Concentrations for the program will be in the fields of Clinical Social Work, Public Health, and Substance Use Disorders, although students may also select a Generalist track.

MOTION: Dr. Ellis moved the Committee endorse for final Council approval the proposed program from the Morehead State University. Ms. Rogers seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

## **ACADEMIC READINESS INDICATORS FOR 2025-27**

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Dr. Bell presented the 2025-27 Academic Readiness Indicators for Council approval. Per 13 KAR 2:020, CPE determines college readiness indicators. CPE staff work with institutional representatives to determine which assessments should be accepted as statewide college readiness indicators and which benchmark scores should determine readiness.

CPE met with campus representatives over the summer. CPE provided data on the use of various academic readiness exams, the relationship among the various indicators, and on gateway course exam success by each academic readiness indicator exam and high school GPA from Fall 2018 to Fall 2022, the last available data.

CPE staff recommended no changes to the current academic readiness indicators. CPE staff will collect more data from post-pandemic cohorts and conduct further data analyses to determine 1) if any exam should be added or removed from the list and 2) whether there should be any changes to the benchmark scores.

MOTION: Ms. Rogers moved the Committee endorse for final Council approval the proposed 2025-27 Academic Readiness Indicators. Dr. Figg seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

## **NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS APPROVED AT KCTCS**

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KRS 164.020 (15) mandates that the Council expedite the approval of requests from KCTCS for new programs of a vocational-technical and occupational nature. Dr. Bell presented the three new programs reviewed and approved by the Council between June and September 2024. No action was required from the Committee.

- Maysville Community and Technical College - AAS, Emergency Medical Services - Paramedic (CIP 51.0904)
- Hazard Community and Technical College
  - AAS, Health Science Technology (CIP 51.000)
  - AAS, Nuclear Medicine Imaging (CIP 51.0905)

## **MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE 2022-30 STATEWIDE STRATEGIC AGENDA**

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Mr. Travis Muncie, Executive Director of Data and Advanced Analytics, and Ms. Melissa Young, Executive Director and Chief Writer of Communications, provided an update on the mid-term review process of the statewide strategic agenda. The agenda was approved by the Council at its November 2021 Council meeting, and campus metric goals were established in early 2022. Because the plan extends over nine years, staff built in a review process that would allow for necessary adjustments every three years (in 2024 and 2027). Over the last three years, staff have monitored implementation at the campus level and engaged in a variety of statewide initiatives to advance progress.

Ms. Young, who assembled internal work teams to review the objectives, strategies and narrative portions of the plan, discussed the preliminary staff recommendations for the objectives and strategies. Mr. Muncie, who has been meeting with campus institutional research directors to review key performance indicators and goal setting, presented preliminary changes proposed to date.

The final recommendations will be presented to the Committee for approval at its November meeting.

## **HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT FUND UPDATE**

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Dr. Leslie Sizemore, Associate Vice President of Workforce and Economic Development, and Ms. Michaela Mineer, Senior Associate, provided an update on the recipients of the healthcare training scholarships and healthcare program incentive awards.

Created in the 2023 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly through HB 200, the Healthcare Workforce Investment Fund (HWIF) was created to cultivate a robust healthcare workforce in Kentucky. The core objectives are twofold: providing educational scholarships to students pursuing programs targeting critical workforce needs in healthcare professions (65% of funds) and recognizing and rewarding excellence among Kentucky healthcare professional education and training programs (35% of funds).

On July 1, CPE issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for healthcare training partnerships to compete for matching funds to support scholarships for students pursuing credentials in high-demand healthcare fields. A total of \$6.64 million in matching funds was available and priority was given to proposals that target counties historically underserved by Kentucky's healthcare systems; improve racial and ethnic diversity in healthcare fields; address current state workforce shortages; and benefit healthcare partners with 50 or fewer employees. Proposals were accepted through August 15, 2024.

On the incentive funds side, Humana donated \$75,000 and when matched by dollars from the General Assembly appropriation, allowed CPE to make an incentive award of \$150,000.

## **HEROES TO HEALERS**

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Dr. Sizemore provided an overview of the new initiative, Heroes to Healers (H2H), which is a two-fold initiative that builds upon credit for prior learning afforded to veterans who have experience in medical training within the 68 MOS series.

Staff are working on proposed legislation that will enable military medics the opportunity to enroll in accelerated bridge programming that yields the credential of a licensed practical nurse and promotes civilian employment while accessing additional educational preparation through postsecondary enrollment. Though the details of the legislation are not yet defined, CPE staff is working with legislators, Kentucky licensure boards, and higher education leadership to develop the project.

A second aspect of Heroes to Healers is a pathway partnership with the Department of Defense (DOD) SkillBridge initiative that will allow veterans with medical training the opportunity to enter the workforce as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) while seeking career credentials and academic pathways as Paramedics. This provision enables veterans to gain civilian healthcare experience and employment as EMTs while simultaneously entering a paramedic education pathway leading to full licensure.

Both aspects break down barriers to employment for our veterans and allow them to leverage their military training and expertise. This initiative also addresses Kentucky's healthcare workforce shortage by allowing for immediate entry into the workforce and exposing veterans to the return on investment afforded by higher education.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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The Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee adjourned at 11:10 a.m., ET.