



# 2020 PROGRESS REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

## Making Progress

- Kentucky is on track to reach our 60x30 educational attainment goal. In 2018-19, the total number of undergraduate degrees and credentials (public and AIKCU) increased 3.5% over the prior year. An average annual increase of 1.7% is needed.
  - Credentials awarded to minority students at KCTCS increased 7.4%, while bachelor's degrees conferred to minority students (at public and AIKCU institutions) increased 5.3%.
  - KCTCS conferred 9,865 associate degrees in 2018-19, a 2.2% increase over 2017-18.
  - Short-term certificates at KCTCS increased 6.5% to 25,231.
- Total master's, professional, and doctoral degrees increased 14.3% to 13,305. Graduate degrees at public universities decreased 1%, but independent institutions increased graduate degree production by 42%.
- The six-year graduation rate for public four-year institutions rose to 55% (up from 54.5%), while the three-year rate at KCTCS rose to 33.9% (up from 31%).
- KCTCS's completion rate (41.6%) exceeds the national average by 0.8 of a percentage point. The completion rate of Kentucky's four-year public universities (62.6%) is approaching the national average (66.7%).
- First-year to second-year retention increased 1.3 percentage points to 78.2% at public universities, and 2.2 percentage points to 55.5% at KCTCS.
- More developmental students are completing gatekeeper courses in English and math within a year of entry. In 2018, 53.1% of developmental students passed a credit-bearing course in English and 29.7% in math, up from 45.4% and 25.6% respectively in 2017.
- Average credit hours earned at graduation at public four-year universities decreased from 138.9 in 2017-18 to 137.6 in 2018-19, the biggest drop since beginning this strategic agenda in 2015-16. The 2020-21 target is 134.0. During this same time period, KCTCS fell from 79.8 to 77.9, reaching its 2020-21 target of 80 ahead of schedule.

## Holding Steady

- Total bachelor's degrees awarded (public and AIKCU) remained essentially unchanged, from 23,665 in 2017-18 to 23,727 in 2018-19.

## Challenges Ahead

- The percentage of KCTCS associate degree graduates who transferred to a four-year institution decreased from 38.9% in 2017-18 to 36.3% in 2018-19.
- Kentucky's in-state college-going rate fell from 53% in 2017 to 51.7% in 2018, marking the fourth consecutive decline.
- Enrollment among adults (25 and older) fell from 46,063 in fall 2015 to 38,452 in fall 2018, a 17% drop. Enrolling and graduating a greater percentage of non-traditional adult students is essential if Kentucky hopes to meet its educational attainment goal.
- State funding per full-time equivalent student was up slightly from the previous year, from \$5,925 in 2018-19 to \$5,977 in 2019-20. However, that increase was due to a drop in enrollment, not an increase in state appropriations.
- Average net price continues to increase at Kentucky's public research universities, up from \$18,176 in 2016-17 to \$18,411 in 2017-18, the most current year available. Net price at comprehensive universities increased from \$11,246 in 2016-7 to \$12,110 in 2017-18.