



Career Services in Kentucky

A Summer Convening

July 25, 2024

Agenda

8 - 8:50 a.m.

Check-In and Networking Breakfast

Join fellow attendees for a continental breakfast and introductions before the day's sessions begin.

9 - 9:05 a.m.

Welcome

Dr. Leslie Sizemore, Associate Vice President, Workforce and Economic Development, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

9:05 - 9:35 a.m.

Setting the Stage: Effectively Preparing Today's Graduates for the Career Landscape of the Future

Dr. Aaron Thompson, President, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

The missions of higher education and workforce development are inextricably linked, as they both aim to prepare individuals to compete in a global market, grow Kentucky's economy and improve a sufficient quality of life. In this session, CPE President Aaron Thompson will describe the evolution of higher education's career development charge and the state's workforce needs.

9:35 - 10:15 a.m.

Communities of Innovation

Chis Michiek, Director, Center for Career Success, Thomas Jefferson University

In this session, Michiek will explore how to build resilient communities and systems in response to the complex problems faced by career development and services professionals, including how to move from reactive to proactive responses in shaping the future of Kentucky's workforce and economy. Also, Michiek will delve into the intersection of community, collaboration, and innovation and how technology can empower or hinder our work.

10:15 - 10:30 a.m.

A Unified Approach to Postsecondary Career Services

Mary Jackson, Senior Associate, Workforce and Economic Development, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

Kentucky has a wide range of institutions that differ significantly in terms of their structures and processes for career services. CPE senior associate Mary Jackson will present a unified career services framework developed by CPE that is informed by best practices.

10:30 - 10:45 a.m.

Break

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10:45 - 11:45 a.m. Panel Discussion - Career Service Showcase: Moving Forward

- *Ray Clere, Director, Stuckert Career Center, University of Kentucky*
- *Tanelle Sawyer, Associate Vice President, Workforce and Economic Development, Kentucky Community and Technical College System*
- *Wayne Simpson, Associate Director, Career Development, Western Kentucky University*

Career services programs have been forced to innovate and adapt as higher education moves with the flow of evolving technology and new generations. Our modern reality demands that we look at process and function in a new way to meet goals related to meaningful employment for our students. CPE's Leslie Sizemore will facilitate a discussion around how institutions have changed related to career services and how these changes will impact Kentucky's future workforce.

11:45 a.m. - Noon Break

Noon - 1:15 p.m. Networking Luncheon

1:15 - 3:20 p.m. Concurrent Breakout Sessions

Participants will be divided into three groups. Buzz session attendance is dependent upon group assignment; time slots and group rotations are noted below.

	Group A	Group B	Group C
1:15 - 1:50 p.m.	Buzz Session 1	Buzz Session 2	Buzz Session 3
1:55 - 2:35 p.m.	Buzz Session 2	Buzz Session 3	Buzz Session 1
2:40 - 3:20 p.m.	Buzz Session 3	Buzz Session 1	Buzz Session 2

Buzz Session 1: Postsecondary Alignment with Kentucky's Industry Needs and Economic Trends

Facilitated by Michael Yoder, Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development

Topics

- Discuss how postsecondary career services can align their offerings with current and future workforce demands in key industries within the state.
- Explore strategies for collecting and analyzing labor market data to identify emerging job trends, skill requirements and growth sectors.
- Share best practices for fostering partnerships with industry stakeholders to ensure that career services programs are responsive to evolving economic needs.

Agenda

Buzz Session 2: Innovative Approaches to Career Preparation and Skill Development

Facilitated by Beth Brinly, Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet

Topics

- Exchange ideas on innovative approaches to career preparation and skill development that meet the needs of diverse student populations.
- Discuss the integration of experiential learning, internships, apprenticeships and other work-based learning opportunities into postsecondary curricula.
- Explore the role of technology, such as AI-driven career counseling platforms and virtual career fairs, in enhancing career services delivery and accessibility.

Buzz Session 3: Equity Across Kentucky Career Services

Facilitated by Dr. Dwayne Compton, University of Louisville

Topics

- Address the importance of diversity, equity and inclusion in career services and workforce development initiatives.
- Discuss strategies for reaching and supporting underrepresented student populations, including low-income students, students of color, first-generation college students and individuals with disabilities.
- Explore ways to promote inclusive hiring practices, reduce bias in recruitment and selection processes, and create supportive environments for all students to thrive in the workforce.

3:25 - 3:35 p.m.

Closing Session

Dr. Leslie Sizemore will reflect on the day's key takeaways, discuss forthcoming challenges and chart a path toward innovative, strategic and sustainable change.



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About Our Speakers

Beth A. Brinly

Beth Brinly is deputy secretary at the Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet, where she brings a wide array of government, non-profit and private-sector experience, as well as extensive knowledge of federal programs, including the Workforce Investment and Opportunities Act, Wagner-Peyser and the Trade Act.

The depth and breadth of her career has been focused on Kentucky's development of its workforce. Previous positions include deputy secretary of the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development, commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Workforce Development and vice president of the workforce development program for the American Institutes for Research.

Brinly has a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Louisville and a master's degree in education from Pennsylvania State University. She currently lives in Louisville.



Ray Clere

Ray Clere is the director of the University Career Center (Stuckert Career Center) at the University of Kentucky, where he oversees a staff team and operations that serve all UK students and new alumni.

Clere has worked in university career services for close to two decades, including five years overseeing the career center for the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University, the top-ranked school of public affairs by *US News and World Report*. A highly sought-after public speaker, his expertise includes staff and leadership development, employer relations, experiential education, career counseling and program management.

Clere has a master's degree in counseling from Indiana University and is pursuing a doctorate in higher education with an emphasis in student affairs from the University of Kentucky.



Dr. Dwayne Compton

Dr. Dwayne Compton serves as the chief diversity officer, associate dean for community engagement and diversity, and assistant professor at the University of Louisville's School of Medicine. His work focuses on issues that impact women, members of minoritized ethnic/racial groups, members of the LGBTQ community and members of underserved populations specific to medicine in Kentucky. Furthermore, he enjoys working to ensure that medical students are culturally aware and responsive to serve an ever-growing, diverse patient population.

Compton serves on the Berea College Board of Trustees, as well as the boards of the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness, the Park DuValle Community Health Center, the University of Louisville Alumni Association and YMCA of Greater Louisville. He also is the director for the southern region of the National Association for Medical Minority Educators.

Compton, a native of Louisville, has a Bachelor of Science from Berea College, a Master of Education from the University of Louisville, and a Doctor of Education in Leadership from Spalding University.



About Our Speakers

Mary Jackson

Mary Jackson is a senior associate in CPE's workforce and economic development unit.

Among her duties, she tackles critical workforce issues and develops strategies to narrow gaps among underrepresented populations. She also leads the unit's Career Development Officers (CDO) affinity group to bring together career services and career development professionals representing colleges and universities from across the state.

With a higher education career that spans 18 years, Jackson has held various faculty and administrative roles. Mary's academic journey includes a bachelor's degree from Berea College and a master's degree from Eastern Kentucky University. Outside of higher education, Mary is a professional singer and also enjoys mentoring young people.



Tanelle Sawyer

Tanelle Sawyer is the associate vice president of economic development for the Kentucky Community and Technical College System. Her work centers on the strategies and partnerships needed to unlock the state's workforce potential, boost residents' economic mobility and promote educational achievement.

Sawyer has traveled across the world in various capacities in her pursuit of elevating education and outcomes. Most recently, she served as the president of the Young Professional Association of Louisville (YPAL), where she championed the development of young professionals, recognizing their crucial role in the city's vitality.

Sawyer holds a bachelor's degree in secondary English education from Murray State University and a master's degree in education from the University of Louisville.



Wayne E. Simpson

Wayne Simpson is Western Kentucky University's associate director of career development. His duties include overseeing the design of inclusive career programming, services and environment for staff, students, and partners. In addition, he serves as a mentor in WKU's Young Male Leadership Academy (YMLA), which develops leadership skills in young males of diverse backgrounds by exploring the teaching profession.

Prior to his position at WKU, Simpson was employed by Nashville State Community College, where he was part of the Tennessee Board of Regents' Maxine Smith Fellows Program, a prestigious leadership development opportunity for up and coming faculty, staff and administrators.

Simpson is a two-time graduate of Murray State University, earning a Bachelor of Social Work and a Master of Science in human development and leadership. His areas of expertise include workforce development, strategic planning, student growth and motivational speaking.



Dr. Leslie Sizemore

About Our Speakers

Dr. Leslie Sizemore is the associate vice president for workforce and economic development at the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education. Her work includes leading the Council's Healthcare Workforce Collaborative, the CLIMB Health Initiative (Career Ladders in Mental and Behavioral Health), and other statewide workforce initiatives to build talent in Kentucky's critical need workforce sectors.

With 30 years of healthcare and leadership experience, she is a licensed occupational therapist and operates TheraCare, Inc., a private practice occupational and physical therapy staffing company serving southeastern Kentucky. She also has worked as a faculty member and healthcare clinician in various direct service and leadership roles dedicated to school-based practice, pediatric clinical practice and healthcare administration.

Sizemore has a doctorate in leadership from the University of the Cumberlands, an education specialist degree in assistive technology from the University of Kentucky, and master's and bachelor's degrees in occupational therapy from Eastern Kentucky University.



Dr. Aaron Thompson

Dr. Aaron Thompson is the first African American and first native-born Kentuckian to hold the position of Council president and has made tackling student achievement gaps a top priority. His accomplishments include implementing the state's diversity, equity and inclusion policy, the Kentucky Student Success Collaborative - the first statewide program in the nation to bring together all sectors to improve underserved student outcomes - and the performance funding model for higher education, which incentivizes campus progress.

Outside of higher education, Thompson has served on several non-profit and private sector boards, including the corporate board for Baptist Health Care. Thompson has led the charge on several CPE workforce initiatives, including the Healthcare Workforce Collaborative, which seeks to strengthen Kentucky's healthcare workforce, and the Kentucky Graduate Profile, a statewide effort to instill employability skills into the undergraduate curriculum of all public postsecondary programs.

In addition to a Bachelor of Arts in political science and sociology from Eastern Kentucky University, Thompson holds a master's degree in sociology and a doctorate in sociology, both from the University of Kentucky.



Dr. Mike Yoder, PHR

Dr. Mike Yoder is the director of workforce and community development at the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development. His work focuses on the workforce and talent pipeline needs of companies seeking to locate or expand within the state.

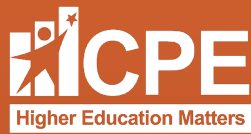
Yoder has over a decade of experience in learning systems, higher education administration, talent management, organizational effectiveness and continuous improvement across a variety of organizations and industries. His expertise brings a unique perspective to the challenges and opportunities faced by companies as they manage their workforce from recruitment to retention.

Yoder has a doctorate in industrial-organizational psychology, a master's in international management, and a professional in human resources certification. He lives in Jessamine County with his wife, and they enjoy all the great state of Kentucky has to offer, along with their labradoodle, Pepper.



Notes

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