

## **MINUTES**

### **Council on Postsecondary Education**

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Type: Work Session  
Date: June 27, 2019  
Time: 3:00 p.m.  
Location: Midway University, LRC 207-209

### **WELCOMING & CALL TO ORDER**

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The Council on Postsecondary Education met Thursday, June 27, 2019, at 3:00 p.m., ET, at Midway University in Midway, Kentucky. Chair Sherrill Zimmerman presided.

### **ATTENDANCE**

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Members in attendance: Ron Beal, Ben Brandstetter, Kim Halbauer, Lori Harper (by teleconference), Lucas Mentzer, Donna Moore, Kristi Nelson, OJ Oleka, Vidya Ravichandran, Robert Staat, Brandon Wilson, Sherrill Zimmerman, and Wayne Lewis.

Members not in attendance: Shawn Reynolds, Sebastian Torres, and Carol Wright.

CPE President Aaron Thompson attended the meeting and served as Secretary of the board, per the CPE Bylaws. Heather Faesy, CPE's senior associate for Board Relations, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

### **REPORT: KENTUCKY'S DEGREE AND CREDENTIAL PRODUCTION FOR 2013-18**

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Presenter: David Mahan, Associate Vice President for Data and Research

Kentucky's Degree and Credential Production Report describes the state of postsecondary education degree and credential attainment between Academic Years 2013-14 and 2017-18. Using data from the Kentucky Postsecondary Education Data System, the report details the number and types of credentials earned at Kentucky's public universities, the campuses of the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System.

The report is set within the larger context of the Council's goal to raise the percentage of Kentuckians with a high-quality college-level credential to 60% by the year 2030. To

reach this goal, the number of Kentuckians with a credential requires a 1.7% annual growth until 2030. For additional perspective, Kentucky's educational attainment is also compared to the national average.

While the report shows impressive growth in degrees and credentials, especially with the gains made by underrepresented minorities, it also highlights the challenges moving forward and areas for improvement. Council staff answered several questions regarding the decline of associate degrees, concerns around teacher shortages, and the inability to retain quality teachers and professors due to the existing pay rates.

The report can be accessed at: <http://cpe.ky.gov/data/reports/2019degreesreport.pdf>.

## **GEAR UP KENTUCKY: EVERY STUDENT PREPARED FOR POSTSECONDARY SUCCESS**

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Presenter: Kim Drummond, Executive Director of GEAR UP Kentucky

In October 2018, the Council was awarded a seven-year, \$24.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to administer the GEAR UP Kentucky (GUK) project. During the seven years of the grant, GEAR UP Kentucky (GUK) will serve a minimum of 10,000 students in 12 school districts across Kentucky. In addition to delivering full services to two consecutive cohorts of 7<sup>th</sup> graders through their senior year in high school (GUK Full Service Cohorts), GUK will serve the senior class in participating high schools every year of the grant (GUK Priority Service Cohorts), providing services from the beginning of their senior year through the end of the freshman year in college.

GEAR UP Kentucky is providing services in the following school districts: Bath County, Bourbon County, Bracken County, Covington Independent, Fleming County, Frankfort Independent, Marion County, Mason County, Mercer County, Paris Independent, Pendleton County and Robertson County. In order to participate in GUK, each of these districts met school selection criteria, including having 51% or more students who are free/reduced-lunch eligible (based on 7<sup>th</sup> grade class at time of application), however once a school is chosen, all students benefit from the program.

## **HIGHER EDUCATION MATTERS: ALIGNING OUR PRIORITIES**

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The board has identified five priorities for 2019 to help close the gap between the state's current educational attainment trajectory and the needed trajectory to achieve the state's 60x30 goal.

- 1) **Determine why college students are dropping out of college:** The board's highest priority is to understand why students are dropping out of college and advance strategies to improve completion.
- 2) **Review Kentucky's non-resident tuition policies:** The board's second priority is to review CPE's non-resident tuition policies to determine whether changes should be made to encourage greater out-of-state enrollment.
- 3) **Develop tools to improve pathways between P-12 and Higher Education:** The board's third highest priority is to develop tools, programs and strategies to improve pathways to postsecondary education, including improved advising and better information about college-going and paying for college.
- 4) **Explore the creation of a free college program:** The board's fourth highest priority is to explore the creation of a "free college" program for the first one or two years of college. The Kentucky program would be similar to programs in Tennessee and other states.
- 5) **Develop strategies to improve access and success and adult learners:** The board's fifth highest priority is to improve pathways for adults to enter or reenter college and complete a postsecondary credential.

Staff provided a document on the progress thus far on each of the priorities and discussed how each build upon the larger goals of *Kentucky's 2016-2021 Strategic Agenda for Postsecondary Education* and the Commonwealth's goal to increase the percentage of adults with a postsecondary credential to 60% by 2030.

## **CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT SESSION, TOUR, AND DINNER**

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Midway University staff took the Council members on a tour of the Equestrian Center. The expansive equestrian facilities allow for multiple riding venues through indoor and outdoor riding arenas, jumping field, dressage ring, and 70+ acres of pastureland. Following the tour, Midway University hosted a reception and dinner with guest speaker, Allison Ball who discussed the Financial Empowerment Coalition.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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The Council adjourned for the evening at 8:00 p.m., ET, and were scheduled to reconvene for a business meeting on June 28, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. ET.

**MINUTES REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL: October 31, 2019**