

MEETING MINUTES

Approved by the Council on November 7, 2025

Who: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
Meeting Type: Work Session
Date: September 12, 2025
Time: 9:00 a.m. ET
Location: Somerset Community College, 808 Monticello St, Somerset – Meece Hall Auditorium

WELCOME REMARKS

The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education held a work session on Friday, September 12, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. ET. The meeting occurred at Somerset Community College and Vice Chair Elaine Walker presided.

ATTENDANCE

There was a quorum of 9 voting Council members in attendance.

- Rev. CB Akins – in person
- Dr. Muhammad Babar – did not attend
- Jacob Brown – in person
- Lindsey Case – in person
- Jennifer Collins - virtual
- Dr. Kellie Ellis – in person
- Dr. Meredith Figg – in person
- Sean Garber – did not attend
- Karyn Hoover – in person
- LaDonna Rogers – in person
- Madison Silvert – virtual (part)
- Elaine Walker – in person
- Kevin Weaver – did not attend
- Comm. Robbie Fletcher – in person

CPE President Aaron Thompson served as secretary of the board, per the CPE Bylaws. Heather Faesy, CPE program manager, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

RECAP OF BOARD RETREAT ACTIVITIES

Dr. Amanda Ellis, Sr. Vice President of Student Access and Success, provided a summary of the outcomes from the Council's board retreat three months prior. The board identified 2 priorities of work to focus on in the next fiscal year:

- Make dual credit more accessible, support meaningful academic progress, and deliver long-term value for students and the state.
- Serve as visible, informed advocates for postsecondary education across the Commonwealth to advance student outcomes and institutional effectiveness.

Council staff will spend the next year working with the board to ensure the Council has the resources and data needed to accomplish these priorities.

UPDATE ON FEDERAL ISSUES

Austin Reid, Federal Affairs Advisor at the National Council of State Legislators, provided an update on federal affairs including a federal education funding update, the education provisions of the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act*, and the latest changes made to the U.S. Department of Education under the Trump administration.

Council members provided comments and asked questions of clarification on the graduate program loan caps, workforce Pell Grants, and if the federal Department of Education will formally close.

COUNCIL PRIORITY: STRENGTHENING DUAL CREDIT ACCESS, SUCCESS AND VALUE ACROSS KENTUCKY

Dr. Chris Ledford, Director of Data and Advanced Analytics, and Robin Hebert, Senior Fellow of Student Access and Success, presented on the foundational aspects of Dual Credit in Kentucky. Ms. Hebert discussed student and teacher eligibility, the types of dual credit courses offered, how the dual credit scholarship assists financially, and the benefits of dual credit participation. Dr. Ledford provided several data points that drive the Council's initiatives in this area including progress toward the dual credit attainment goal, enrollment statistics, and the predicted probability of immediate college enrollment of those who attempted dual credit coursework. They also discussed the known student challenges and the existing supports and resources available to combat those challenges.

Council members provided comments and asked questions of clarification providing more direct assistance to parents, direct marketing opportunities, advancing the advisory opportunities to students, and how to ensure that the courses offered are quality and equivalent to college course work. Ms. Case provided her perspective as a high school teacher and how she targets students with untapped potential.

At this time, the Council took a ten-minute break.

CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT SESSION

Dr. Carey Castle, President of Somerset Community College, briefed the Council on the institution's campuses and centers, their student body and the programs and degrees offered. Council members then engaged in a station walkthrough led by his executive team that focused on the following ten areas:

- University Center of Southern Kentucky
- Arts and Sciences

- Health Sciences
- Business and Professional Services
- Career and Technical Education
- Workforce Solutions
- Laurel Campus
- Somerset Community College Centers
- Student Affairs/Enrollment Engagement
- Institutional Advancement, Administration Division, and Institutional Effectiveness

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned for lunch at 12:20 p.m. ET.