

MEETING MINUTES

Approved by the Council on January 30, 2026

Who: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
Meeting Type: Work Session
Date: November 6, 2025
Time: 2:30 p.m. CT
Location: Brescia University, Owensboro – C.E. Field House for Professional Studies, Room 312

WELCOME REMARKS

The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education held a work session on Thursday, November 6, 2025, at 2:30 p.m. CT. The meeting occurred at Brescia University in Owensboro and Chair Madison Silvert presided.

ATTENDANCE

There was a quorum of 13 voting Council members in attendance.

- Rev. CB Akins – in person
- Jai Bokey – in person
- Jacob Brown – did not attend
- Lindsey Case – in person
- Jennifer Collins – in person
- Dr. Kellie Ellis – in person
- Dr. Meredith Figg – in person
- Sean Garber – did not attend
- Karyn Hoover – virtual
- Dennis Repenning – in person
- LaDonna Rogers – in person
- Madison Silvert – in person
- Elaine Walker – in person
- Kevin Weaver – in person
- Michael Wheeler – in person
- Comm. Robbie Fletcher – virtual

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.

WELCOME REMARKS

Dr. Amanda Ellis, Sr. Vice President of Student Access and Success, reminded the Council of its outcomes from the Council's 2025 board retreat. 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 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 benefits to students of dual credit completion in Kentucky. These benefits included higher high school graduation rates, increased persistence and retention, a greater familiarity with college and transitioning to college and overall college readiness. Additionally, postsecondary affordability is a clear benefit to students as they tend to have shorter times to degree rates as well as lower levels of student debt upon graduation.

COUNCIL PRIORITY: ADVOCACY FOR POSTSECONDARY PROGRESS

Ms. Jessica Fletcher, Chief Communications Officer, discussed a number of ways the Council is strengthening its communication strategies. She discussed the recent improvements to the President's Report, the reinstatement of the Higher Ed Matters newsletter, and engaging in more audience-targeted social media content. Ms. Fletcher also provided the Council with an insider look at Futuriti, Kentucky's official career and college planning platform designed to help students, adults, families, educators, and career planners explore education and career options, make informed decisions, and connect those plans with real workforce data.

SPOTLIGHT SESSION AND DINNER

Following a short break, the Council and attending staff traveled to the HealthForce Kentucky Innovation Center located at 2511 Frederica Street in Owensboro for a tour of the facilities. Afterwards, they had a networking dinner at Moonlight Bar-B-Q Inn located at 2840 W Parrish Ave in Owensboro. No official business or action was taken during either activity.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned the work session at 4:30 p.m. CT and concluded the tour and dinner at 7:30 p.m. CT.