

CLIMB-HEALTH CONVENING

SUSTAINING MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE CAREERS

May 14, 2024

THE CAMPBELL HOUSE,
1375 S BROADWAY, LEXINGTON, KY 40504



CONVENING AGENDA

MAY 14 - MORNING

7:30-8:30 a.m.

NETWORKING BREAKFAST

Join your fellow attendees for a hot breakfast conversation. Buffet will close 10 minutes before the morning keynote.

8:30-9:45 a.m.

WELCOMING REMARKS AND OPENING KEYNOTES

Dr. Leslie Sizemore, Associate Vice President, Workforce & Economic Initiatives, Council on Postsecondary Education

The CLIMB-Health initiative was launched in 2023 and creates postsecondary pathways for individuals in recovery from substance use disorders. Dr. Sizemore will welcome attendees to celebrate this program that enables individuals to seek entry-level employment as peer support specialists, with opportunities for additional certifications leading to a social work degree.

RECOVERY READY: CHANGING THE TRAJECTORY OF POSTSECONDARY AND THE STATE THROUGH CLIMB-HEALTH

Dr. Aaron Thompson, President, Council on Postsecondary Education

CLIMB-Health is trailblazing a pathway into providing services to Kentuckians who have historically been excluded from postsecondary education. Through this initiative, CLIMB-Health is not just offering educational opportunities but also affirming the inherent worth and potential of every individual, regardless of their circumstances. CPE President Thompson will discuss this work and how its empowering communities and reshaping the landscape of opportunity for generations to come.

TOGETHER WE CLIMB

Eric Friedlander, Secretary, Cabinet for Health and Family Services

Kentucky's economic future depends on ensuring that every Kentuckian has the resources and support to further their education, regardless of their background or income level. Secretary Friedlander will discuss CHFS's partnership with postsecondary institutions to embed a dedicated team assisting students with basic needs, which helps relieve some of the outside challenges they face, and to creatively plan for stackable credentials to provide pathways to degrees and living wage jobs.

10:00-11:00 a.m.

ENGAGING KENTUCKY'S LIVED EXPERIENCED WORKFORCE

Dr. Katherine Marks, Commissioner of the Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental, and Intellectual Disabilities (DBHDID)

Get a better understanding of challenges and successes of Kentucky's "lived experience" in this session as Commissioner Katie Marks delves into the unique perspectives that shape our communities and workplaces, foster engagement, as well as share data and statistics to help attendees understand the stakes for impactful collaboration.

CONVENING AGENDA

MAY 14 - MID-DAY

11:05-11:45 a.m. ENHANCING CAREER LADDERS IN MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: THE CLIMB-HEALTH INITIATIVE

Carl Wilson, Senior Fellow for Healthcare Workforce Initiatives, Council on Postsecondary Education

The morning sessions has focused on establishing Kentucky's need of postsecondary pathways for Kentucky's more vulnerable adult population, and in this session CPE's Carl Wilson will shift the discussion to the structure and outcomes of the CLIMB-Health program, highlight the successes and challenges faced, and open a dialogue on potential future collaborations to expand and enhance the initiative.

11:45-12:05 p.m. INITIATIVE SPOTLIGHTS: KCTCS CLIMB-COLLEGES

Take an exclusive look into the innovative educational initiatives being spearheaded by three KCTCS colleges in a session that will feature micro-presentations from each college, highlighting their unique contributions to the CLIMB-Health program and other postsecondary educational initiatives.

- Gloria Wooten, Project Manager, Bluegrass Community and Technical College
- Beth Cassity, Director External Essential Skills Training, Elizabethtown Community and Technical College
- De'Serae Perry, Director of Workforce Solutions, Maysville Community and Technical College

12:05-1:30 p.m. LUNCHEON AND KEYNOTE: THE COMMITMENT OF KCTCS TO THE FUTURE OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Dr. Ryan Quarles, President, Kentucky Community and Technical College System

Enjoy this opportunity to lunch and network with colleagues and explore the exhibits available in The Paddock, before hearing from KCTCS President Ryan Quarles as he discusses the dedication of Kentucky's two-year college system to the improvement of Kentucky's adult population and their communities through its CLIMB-Health commitment.

1:45-2:30 p.m. PREVALENCE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR

Carl Wilson, Senior Fellow for Healthcare Workforce Initiatives, Council on Postsecondary Education

As artificial intelligence (AI) advances, its healthcare applications are becoming more innovative and impactful, reshaping how care is delivered and managed. This session will explore the dynamic role of AI in transforming the healthcare landscape and their applications in various applicable areas.

CONVENING AGENDA

MAY 14 - AFTERNOON

2:30-3:30 p.m. **CELEBRATING EARLY SUCCESS AT OUR CLIMB-HEALTH COLLEGES**

Join us in celebrating the early successes at three of our CLIMB Health Colleges. This session will highlight the innovative initiatives taking place at Big Sandy, Southeast Kentucky, and Owensboro that have propelled their communities forward.

Carl Wilson, Senior Fellow for Healthcare Workforce Initiatives, Council on Postsecondary Education

Rachelle Burchett, Chief Workforce and Marketing Officer, Big Sandy CTC

Sherri Clark, Dean of Community, Workforce and Economic Development, Southeast Kentucky CTC

Cindy Fiorella, Vice President of Workforce Solutions, Owensboro CTC

Jason Simon, Workforce Solutions' Director of Innovation and AMTEC, Owensboro CTC

3:30-3:45 p.m. **CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Leslie Sizemore, Associate Vice President, Workforce & Economic Initiatives, Council on Postsecondary Education

Stay for this final session as we reflect on the key takeaways from the conference and provide next steps to continue the momentum of success for all CLIMB-Health students.

3:45-4:30 p.m. **NETWORKING AND VISITING EXHIBITS**

Before you depart, make sure to visit each of this year's exhibitors:

- Goodwill Industries, Inc.
- Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP)
- Council on Postsecondary Education, Adult Learner Initiatives
- Ashland Community and Technical College
- Big Sandy Community and Technical College
- Bluegrass Community and Technical College
- Elizabethtown Community and Technical College
- Hazard Community and Technical College
- Madisonville Community College
- Maysville Community and Technical College
- Owensboro Community and Technical College
- Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College

SPEAKER BIOS



Rachelle Burchett is the Chief Workforce and Marketing Officer at Big Sandy Community and Technical College. She is a devoted wife, proud mother of three, and adoring Granny to two amazing little girls and one sweet boy. She brings invaluable expertise to her role and drives initiatives that shape the future of education and workforce development. She is also a keynote speaker and a transformative communication and leadership trainer. Beyond her professional achievements, Rachelle brings a deeply personal perspective to her advocacy work. Having navigated the challenges of addiction with her son, she is passionate about recovery and supporting individuals on their journey to success. Rachelle's lived experiences fuel her dedication to making a meaningful impact in the lives of others, inspiring hope, and transformation at every turn.



Sherri Clark is the Dean of Community, Workforce and Economic Development at Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College. In this role, she leads Workforce Solutions, a division whose main objective is to provide customized training for business and industry. The division also oversees targeted workforce grants and initiatives—including an award of nearly \$500K from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to fund the Essential Skills HUB project, and an award of \$1.7 million from US Department of Labor to fund the GEO Project. The HUB will expand training to provide participants in recovery the opportunity to gain digital skills and certifications. The GEO Project: Generating Energy Optimization, a grant in collaboration with SKCTC academics, will provide training to enhance the critical renewable energy sector-based career pathways of electrical technology, automotive technology, and transportation. In addition, Clark leads Adult Education, Mine Training, the Mountain Training Network, and the Ready to Work program.



Cindy Fiorella is the Vice President of Workforce Solutions at Owensboro Community and Technical College. Fiorella leads OCTC's Workforce Solutions division which provides customized business and industry training, workforce assessment services, adult basic education, as well as related programs and services targeted to at risk populations. The division is the largest and most comprehensive unit within the KCTCS and is comprised of more than 40 workforce development professionals. OCTC's Workforce Solutions is recognized for its innovative public/private industry collaborations employing "work and learn" delivery modalities, as well as its significant portfolio of technology-enhanced learning solutions.



Eric Friedlander has served as secretary of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services since 2020. As Cabinet secretary, Friedlander leads a \$17.5 billion Cabinet that serves every Kentucky citizen in some capacity through its 93 agencies, departments, branches and functions, including the departments for Public Health; Medicaid Services; Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities; Community Based Services; and Aging and Independent Living and Office of the Inspector General; Serve Kentucky; and World Languages Association-certified translations and American Sign Language. Committed to major social services and population health policies and programs that aim to transform the health and well-being of Kentuckians, he is a champion of all citizens and the more than 8,000 Cabinet employees.

SPEAKER BIOS



Dr. Katie Marks serves as the Commissioner for the Kentucky Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities. As a behavioral scientist, Dr. Marks supports the departmental mission of promoting health and well-being by facilitating recovery for people whose lives have been affected by mental illness and substance use; supporting people with intellectual or other developmental disabilities; and building resilience for all. Dr. Marks previously served as the project director for the Kentucky Opioid Response Effort (KORE); bringing expertise focused on state, community, and organizational-level strategies as well as policies that support recovery from the overdose epidemic. Dr. Marks received a doctorate in Experimental Psychology from the University of Kentucky and a graduate certificate in Clinical and Translational Science.



Dr. Ryan Quarles is the fourth president of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System and the first native Kentuckian to lead the system of 16 community and technical colleges and 70 campuses. Quarles comes to KCTCS with a long history in statewide public service. He was first elected to the Kentucky House of Representatives in 2010 where he served until his election as Kentucky's state commissioner of agriculture in 2016. In that role, he led the state's second largest executive branch agency through 2023, serving two terms. On a national front, he was president of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture in 2020-2021. His earlier work experience includes serving as associate general counsel at Georgetown College and working in private practice.



Jason Simon serves as OCTC's Workforce Solutions' Director of Innovation and AMTEC (Advanced Manufacturing Education Collaborative), a nationwide learning collaborative of industry and education partners. Simon is responsible for leading AMTEC product development and expansion efforts for companies such as Boeing, Toyota, and Nissan. Additionally, Simon leads Workforce Solutions' FlexTrain Initiative which offers innovative computer-based training courses encompassing more than 100,000 professional development, career certifications, and regulatory training offerings. Under Simon's leadership, the FlexTrain team provides instructional design, learning management system/hosting services and Help Desk support for multi-state educational and industry partners.



Dr. Leslie Sizemore boasts three decades of healthcare and administrative expertise and currently holds the position of Associate Vice President for Workforce and Economic Initiatives at Kentucky's Council on Postsecondary Education. In addition to being a licensed occupational therapist, she spearheads several critical initiatives within the CPE and plays a pivotal role in shaping and monitoring policies that impact workforce development and education. Dr. Sizemore also owns and operates TheraCare, Inc., a private practice occupational and physical therapy staffing company serving Southeastern Kentucky. She lends her expertise to various advisory bodies, including the SEKY Advisory Council for Volunteers of America, the Professional Advisory Council for the Laurel County Center for Innovation, and the Cabinet for Health and Family Services Institutional Review Board. Dr. Sizemore continues to live in Southeastern Kentucky and travels the state to coordinate education and industry partnerships collectively dedicated to building a robust Kentucky workforce. Dr. Sizemore continues to live in Southeastern Kentucky and travels the state to coordinate education and industry partnerships collectively dedicated to building a robust Kentucky workforce.

SPEAKER BIOS



Dr. Aaron Thompson is a passionate advocate for higher education. As a first-generation college student from rural Clay County, Kentucky, he experienced first-hand the transformative power of a college credential. As President of CPE, he works to ensure all Kentuckians have an equal opportunity to improve their lives through postsecondary education. Before taking the helm of CPE, Thompson served as interim president of Kentucky State University; CPE executive vice president and provost; and faculty member and administrator at Eastern Kentucky University. He has extensive leadership experience within the private and non-profit sectors and is a highly sought-after national speaker. Dr. Thompson has authored or co-authored numerous books and peer-reviewed publications on diversity, cultural competence, first-year experience programs, retention, and student success, among other topics. In 2019, he was inducted into the Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame.



Carl Wilson is a Senior Fellow of Healthcare Workforce Initiatives at the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education and a seasoned healthcare workforce leader with a proven track record in management, project leadership, and program development. His expertise extends from academic pathways to innovative workforce initiatives. Carl brings a unique perspective with a background spanning academia, government, and the private sector. Holding a master's degree in Contract Management from the Florida Institute of Technology, his career has been defined by effective leadership and a commitment to building more robust, more resilient healthcare workforces. In addition to his extensive professional experience, Carl is a retired Chief Petty Officer from the United States Naval Reserves. His military leadership background further exemplifies his dedication to excellence and commitment to those who serve.

**Informational Webinar
NOON ET, Wed. June 26, 2024**

CLIMB-Health Learning Collaborative: Recovery Ready Campuses

The CLIMB spotlight aims to lift best practices for creating Recovery Ready college campuses for students with lived experience using trauma-informed services. Please join us as we explore this innovative approach for inclusive student success.

Register here





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