



# CPE REPORT

Eastern Kentucky University News for the Council on Postsecondary Education



## BAPTIST HEALTH AND ECU EXPAND PARTNERSHIP

In continuation of a long-standing community partnership, Baptist Health and ECU announced that the arena inside Alumni Coliseum is now the Baptist Health Arena, following the signing of an 11-year naming rights partnership. The agreement provides the university with \$2.5 million.

Baptist Health alongside ECU is committed to providing the best training opportunities for students in the College of Health Sciences. Earlier this year, Baptist Health Richmond donated seven Stryker hospital beds to ECU's School of Nursing.

"Collaborative efforts to improve health care in our region are essential," said ECU President Dr. David McFaddin. "We are grateful for our continued partnership with Baptist Health to provide our students resources that enable them to become capable professionals once they enter the workforce."

The beds, joined by three high-fidelity adult mannequins, allow students to have exposure to equipment currently found in hospitals and practice working with patients.

Dr. Brooke Bentley, chair of ECU's School of Nursing, said, "The School of Nursing is proud to work with Baptist Health Richmond to promote quality education of nursing students to ultimately have a positive impact on the health of our community."

## EKU AND ANTHEM BLUE CROSS & BLUE SHIELD MEDICAID IN KENTUCKY EXPAND RURAL HEALTH CARE SCHOLARSHIP

ECU and Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Medicaid in Kentucky announced the expansion of the Anthem Medicaid Rural Scholarship to grow the number of frontline workers in the eastern region of the state, increase access to care and improve health equity for those living in Kentucky's rural areas.

The scholarship fund of nearly \$200,000 to ECU's Health Science program will enable more students to provide care in underserved communities. Anthem Medicaid launched the scholarship in 2021, granting students the opportunity to pursue health education and eventually serve in eastern Kentucky.





## EKU LIBRARIES LAUNCHES FREE ENGLISH 101 TEXTBOOK

Through the ECU Board of Regents Innovation Grant funding, faculty from ECU's English Department partnered with ECU Libraries to publish "The Commons: Tools for Reading, Writing, and Rhetoric," an open education resource (OER) for first-year students in English 101 courses.

"The Commons: Tools for Reading, Writing, and Rhetoric" incorporates 26 common texts, as well as newly created content. The book was created with ECU students specifically in mind and with careful consideration to their needs, interests and classroom experiences. It is free for ECU students, faculty and the general public.

Editors for the book include ECU faculty members Dr. Dominic Ashby and Dr. Jill Parrott and editorial assistant Jonathon Collins.

"We are most excited about choosing content that we think ECU students will be excited about and will challenge them—and nobody knows our students better than us," Parrott said. "I am also excited knowing that the instructors in the program provided input on what goes in the textbooks. When they're excited and feel comfortable, students are as well."

The book promotes affordability, equity and access for all ECU students. The cost would be \$99 for students using the traditional textbook for English 101 rather than the OER. In the fall 2022 semester, more than 1,900 students were enrolled in all versions of English 101. Because all undergraduates receive textbooks at no cost through the ECU BookSmart program, the OER textbook represents a savings of more than \$188,000 for the university and the BookSmart program during one semester for just one course.

## SINGLE-PARENT STUDENTS FIND HOME AT ECU

The Richmond community was introduced to the Workforce Pathway at Kit Carson Commons, the newest housing development on ECU's campus in fall 2022. Developed in partnership with Kentucky River Foothills, Kit Carson Commons is a combination of a scholar and workforce-development house geared toward providing affordable housing, childcare and educational support for its residents.

Kit Carson Commons provides 30 single parents with the opportunity to focus on school without having to worry as much about housing and childcare expenses. Ohio native, Dominique Kellam, along with her three children, moved to Kentucky into the Eastern Scholar House in 2020 during the pandemic.

"I thought it'd be a good time to go back to school. I Googled where the best colleges for single parents were, and ECU was first on the list," said Kellam. Kellam and her family moved into Kit Carson Commons for the additional space; previously the family of four shared a two-bedroom apartment.

Thanks to the Workforce Pathway at Kit Carson Commons, Kellam is on track to graduate in May 2024 with a bachelor's degree in computer science and a minor in mathematical sciences.

"I have a work placement here on campus that is in my career field, so that's helping me build experience to enter the workforce," said Kellam. "Now, I also have the opportunity to focus on my education without having to worry about paying outrageous prices for rent."

