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Kentucky State University Forges Transfer Agreement Partnership with KCTCS

Kentucky State University (KSU) announced a collaboration with the Kentucky Community and Technical College Systems (KCTCS). Officially signed on Thursday, October 26, 2023, the transfer agreement is poised to bring numerous benefits to students and the community, as well as to revolutionize the educational landscape in the Commonwealth.

A standing-room only crowd comprised of elected officials, members of the KSU Board of Regents, KSU staff, alumni, and students, KCTCS staff, community members, and media representatives were in attendance to witness the signing of the transfer agreement.

Dr. Koffi C. Akakpo, the 19th President of Kentucky State University, expressed his enthusiasm for the collaboration. “This partnership is a testament of our commitment to providing quality education and workforce development opportunities for the people of Kentucky. It reflects our dedication to enhancing the future of our students and the prosperity of our citizens. Our vision for this innovative alliance is to bolster partnerships across the Commonwealth’s educational landscape and create a seamless transition for students seeking to transfer to KSU and attain their four-year degrees.”

These pathways ensure a smooth journey for community college students looking to complete their baccalaureate degrees.



“Part of our statutory mission is transfer,” says Interim KCTCS President, Dr. Larry Ferguson. “Roughly 50% of our students transfer on to a university such as KSU to extend their educational journey and complete their baccalaureate, master’s, or doctoral degrees.” Ferguson continued, “we are very eager and pleased to be able to work even more in-depth with Dr. Akakpo and his team at Kentucky State University.”

“The intentionality of partnerships like this are by design,” noted Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education President, Dr. Aaron Thompson. “This intentionality is in place to address the needs of Kentucky’s workforce and provide opportunities to our citizens.”

Key highlights of this partnership include enhancing educational access, streamlining transfers, offering industry-relevant curricula, providing scholarships and financial aid, offering comprehensive support services for students, impacting the community, and driving innovation and research.

Dr. Akakpo announced the first eleven pathway transfer credit programs set go in full effect in time for the spring 2024 semester. Additional pathway programs are in development.

Kentucky State University and the Kentucky Community and Technical College Systems are dedicated to creating a brighter future for all and shaping the future of education in Kentucky.

To learn more, visit kysu.edu/apply.

Small-Scale Farm Grant funded for an additional \$1.3 million

Kentucky State University's Small-Scale Farm Grant was granted up to \$1,359,000 over the next two years by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board.

From the Small-Scale Farm Grant's inception in December 2012 through August 2023, more than \$4 million has been awarded to 1,105 successful applicants in 113 counties across Kentucky.

"I am so proud to have been part of this project for the past 10 years, and I'm very excited about the upcoming changes that will benefit even more small, limited-resource, minority farmers in the state," said Joni Nelson, Manager of the Center for Sustainability of Farms and Families at Kentucky State University.

Nelson said it is rewarding to see how far a "small" grant can go for Kentucky farmers.

"It is not a 'small' grant to them. It is a life-changing event," Nelson said.

The Small-Scale Farm Grant frequently helps farmers sustain their business or venture in directions they otherwise could not have.

Jim Embry, an agrarian intellectual activist in Madison County, has received two Small-Scale Farm Grants, which have funded



necessary equipment and helped him purchase hives and beekeeping tools.

"I became a beekeeper thanks to KSU," Embry said.

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board approved more than \$3.3 million for agricultural diversification and rural development projects at its October board meeting.

KSU Professor Honored with Freedom Scholar Award

KSU history professor, Dr. Takeia Anthony, received the Freedom Scholar Award from the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) at that organization's Annual Meeting held September 19-24 in Jacksonville, Florida.

Anthony is a native of Bowling Green, Kentucky and an alumna of Howard University and North Carolina Central University. At KSU, in addition to teaching history and Africana Studies, Dr. Anthony has held leadership positions with the Whitney Young Honors Collegium and the Center of Excellence for the Study of Kentucky African Americans.

The ASALH website notes that, "The Freedom Scholar Award recognizes the contributions of an early career academic whose scholarship focuses on the empowerment of the African American community.... ASALH has initiated the Freedom Scholar award to honor early scholars of any discipline who can demonstrate that their field of study is having a direct positive impact on the life of African Americans."

The ASALH, founded in 1915, is the oldest and largest African American historical society. It counts among its founders Carter Godwin Woodson, the father of Black History Month.

KSU Professor Receives Black Storyteller Fellowship

KSU adjunct history professor, Rev. Andrew Baskin, was one of the six artists selected by the National Association of Black Storytellers (NABS) as a 2023 Black Appalachian Storyteller Fellow. Rev. Baskin will receive a cash award of \$5,000 to support his practice as a Black Appalachian storyteller and culture bearer with opportunities to examine, research, develop and perform, and/or document the Black Appalachian storytelling tradition.

Additionally, he will receive funds for travel and lodging to the 41st Annual National "In the Tradition..." Black Storytelling Festival and Conference being held in Salt Lake City, Utah, November 8-12. Baskin will perform or present during the festival and conference.

The NABS Black Appalachian Storytellers Fellowship is a juried award recognizing artistic excellence in representation of folk art and cultural heritage. In addition to his work at KSU, Rev. Baskin is an emeritus professor at Berea College and lives in Madison County, Kentucky.