

TITLE: Update on Summer Bridge Programs

DESCRIPTION: The Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee received an update on CPE's summer bridge programs, which support postsecondary success by providing students with the academic skills and social resources needed to succeed in a college environment.

PRESENTERS: Karyn Hoover, Chair of the ASI Committee

COMMITTEE'S REVIEW

The Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee received this information update at their September 11, 2023, meeting. It will not be covered or presented in detail at the September 19 board meeting; however, staff will be available for questions. A copy of the slides presented are included in your materials.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Summer bridge programs are designed to ease the transition to college and support postsecondary success by providing students with the academic skills and social resources needed to succeed in a college environment. These programs occur in the summer "bridge" period between high school and college. Although the content of summer bridge programs can vary in length and content across institutions, they typically involve:

- Orientation to college life and resources.
- Academic advising.
- Training in skills necessary for college success, such as time management and study skills.
- Accelerated academic coursework.

The goal is that incoming students who complete a summer bridge experience will enter their fall term with confidence, a network of support, and a strong foundation for success. Because of the importance of these programs, the Council offers grants to institutions to supplement their program's efforts.

In March 2023, CPE awarded \$1.2 million in campus grants for summer bridge programs at Kentucky colleges and universities, and the awards were chosen through a competitive process based on specific criteria to increase numbers of students served in face-to-face programming, reduce performance gaps in college course completion and increase fall-to-spring retention

rates, leading to improved graduation rates. Twenty-three campuses received grants of up to \$50,000 focused on improving college preparation and retention of students.

2023 Kentucky Summer Bridge Convening

The second Annual Convening of Summer Bridge Grantees is taking place on September 29, 2023, at the University of Louisville Shelby Campus, where attendees will discuss the challenges and strategies for first-year transition support. There will be local as well as national experts who will provide first-hand success stories and the measures they took to get there. Beyond learning best practices, attendees will have the opportunity to network with other program coordinators to strengthen partnerships and facilitate collaborative efforts.