

**TITLE:** CPE President Report

**DESCRIPTION:** President Thompson will highlight specific initiatives during his report to the Council. This written report serves as his official report for November 22, 2024.

**STAFF CONTACT:** Dr. Aaron Thompson, CPE President

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**Workforce Visits:** Over the last several months I joined members of the Workforce and Economic Development and Communications units to visit partners engaged in CPE's healthcare and aviation initiatives. These visits provided an excellent opportunity to educate stakeholders about CPE's mission and hear feedback on how the Council can deepen its engagement in local areas.

- In September, we met with students taking aviation classes from Shawnee High School. Our conversation ranged from aviation career opportunities to the importance of higher education in general. Following this, I participated in a roundtable discussion with Louisville business leaders to explore potential education-employer partnerships. Thank you to CPE board members Elaine Walker and Lindsey Case for participating in this roundtable discussion.
- In October, we visited Prestonsburg to meet with students and faculty involved in CPE's CLIMB Health initiative at Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College. This is a program that trains individuals in recovery from substance use disorders to serve as peer support specialists. Following that, we met with SOAR (Shaping our Appalachian Region) about workforce and economic development issues facing Eastern Kentucky and how CPE can assist in these efforts.

**CPE Events:** Since our last meeting in September, Council staff have held several large-scale events that, when combined, were attended by over 600 faculty, staff, policy and legislative leaders in the state.

- On October 17, around 200 participants attended a convening at the University of Louisville's Shelby Campus focused on removing barriers to adult learner reenrollment. Coordinated by CPE's Kentucky Student Success Collaborative, programming focused on enrolling post-traditional students in greater numbers and making programs and services more adult-friendly.
- On October 30, over 175 attendees from healthcare, postsecondary and legislative/policy fields attended the Healthcare Workforce Collaboratory to discuss

strategies for ramping up credential production to fill critical healthcare practitioner shortages. At the luncheon, I awarded a total of \$11.8 million in matching dollars to 33 healthcare partnerships from the Healthcare Workforce Investment Fund.

- The sixth cohort of the Academic Leadership Development Institute (ALDI) held its final seminar at CPE earlier this week. ALDI provides a series of highly interactive sessions and small group seminars led by faculty and administrators from across Kentucky and other states. The goal is to create a learning community of early career, underrepresented minority faculty and staff who are on track for professional advancement.
- The Academic Excellence unit convened the first meeting of the Faculty Leadership Academy (FLA) in October. This new opportunity involves 24 full-time, mid-career faculty who are seeking to further develop their leadership skills and better understand their institutions' place within the state and national postsecondary landscape. A series of professional development and mentoring activities are scheduled through the summer of 2025.
- The Graduate Profile Academy met at Kentucky State University earlier this month to review progress made since 2021 in embedding the ten essential skills into undergraduate programming and discuss the next steps in assessing students' mastery of these skills.

**GEAR UP Kentucky Campaigns:** A new GEAR campaign launched this month called "I'm In." Members of the Kentucky high school class of 2025 will record themselves reading acceptance letters to public and private Kentucky postsecondary institutions. The best of these will be shared on social media and through other channels. Additionally, GEAR UP—in conjunction with CPE's Kentucky Advising Academy, KHEAA, and the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence—launched GO!vember this month to encourage students to fill out the FAFSA and apply to college.

**Staff Recognitions:** CPE staff members continue to gain state and national recognition for their good work.

- Travis Muncie, Chief Information Officer, and Melissa Bell, Vice President for Academic Excellence, were part of a Kentucky team participating in a Gates Foundation-sponsored community of practice focusing on defining and measuring postsecondary value and return-on-investment. The event was held in Minneapolis, and Kentucky was one of only 13 states invited to join.
- KYSSC's Executive Director, Lilly Massa-McKinley, was invited to a NACAC-sponsored conference last week to share information about Kentucky's efforts to redesign

admissions processes to improve access and help students more seamlessly transition to postsecondary programs.

- I was extremely honored to be inducted into the Bluegrass Business Hall of Fame on October 3. Past honorees include Kentucky governors, UK presidents and basketball coaches, noted entrepreneurs, community leaders, media personalities and others.

**New CPE Staff Members:** I'm pleased to welcome or welcome back several new employees to CPE.

- Olivia Morris-Bush, who has served as a research intern with the Student Success Collaborative since June, will continue her work in a full-time associate position as a research fellow. Olivia comes to us from Vanderbilt University, where she earned her master's degree in higher education and worked as a graduate research fellow with Tennesseans for Student Success.
- Regan Satterwhite joined CPE on October 1 as the Director for Government Relations. Regan comes to us from the Kentucky Department of Education, where she served as Executive Policy Advisor in the Office of Career and Technical Education.
- Sherron Jackson, a former and much beloved CPE employee from 1997 until 2020, returned on October 1 for a six-month term as a part-time senior fellow with finance. He'll provide much-needed help in the areas of asset preservation and other capital items.
- Stephanie Cheung joined the KY Student Success Collaborative on October 7th as an associate director. Stephanie comes to us from York University in Toronto, ON, where she worked as the manager of student success and stakeholder engagement for the York faculty of health.