

TITLE: Educational Attainment Academy

DESCRIPTION: Staff will discuss the newly formed Education Attainment Academy and how its work will help make progress toward Kentucky's 60x30 goal.

PRESENTER: Lee Nimocks, Vice President and Chief of Staff

ACADEMY INFORMATION

Kentucky was chosen by the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) and Education Strategies Group (ESG) as one of four states to participate in an Educational Attainment Academy to help states focus, plan, and develop implementation strategies/recommendations around key areas of need.

Kentucky's focus for the Academy will be building out a more comprehensive state strategy to improve educational outcomes for adult learners, with a strong focus on equity and addressing the needs of low-income Kentuckians and people of color. While the team will focus on the "comebacker" – students who dropped out before completing a postsecondary credential, the KY team also will devote attention to Kentucky adults who have fallen through the cracks, and never enrolled in a postsecondary education or training program. The project will focus on barriers to enrollment and completion (onboarding, finances, childcare, social and emotional supports), academic pathways leading to a family-sustaining career, and strategies to improve outreach and communication to this diverse population.

TEAM MEMBERS

Kentucky's Educational Attainment Academy State Team is comprised of the following representatives of state agencies, educational institutions, and state and community-level organizations with expertise and passion around adult learner issues:

- Lee Nimocks, VP for Strategy and Chief of Staff, CPE
- Melissa Bell, VP for Academic Affairs and Student Success, CPE
- Amanda Johannsen, Associate Director, Academic Affairs, CPE
- Kris Williams, Chancellor, Kentucky Community and Technical College System

- Matt Bergman, Associate Professor, College of Educational Leadership, University of Louisville
- Amy Danzo, Director of Adult Learner Services and Program, Northern Kentucky University
- Jen Timmerman, Director of Transfer Services, Morehead State University
- Tania Gross, AVP, Retention and Student Success, Bluegrass Community and Technical College
- Ted Franzeim, Senior Vice President, Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority
- John Gregory, Executive Director, Kentucky Adult Education
- Bridgett Strickler, Vice President, The Graduate Network
- Stefanie Ebbens Kingsley, Executive Director, Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board
- LaKisha Miller, Executive Director, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Workforce Center
- Jessica Cunningham, Executive Director, Kentucky Center for Statistics
- Lilly Massa-McKinley, Executive Director, Kentucky Student Success Collaborative

To round out the team, an external “coach” has been assigned to Kentucky to help guide and support our work and we’ll have access to analytic and technical support from SHEEO and ESG.

PLAN OF WORK AND TIMELINE

The team is charged with developing a state strategy, including an implementation plan, policy recommendations, and measures of progress, to strengthen postsecondary educational pathways for adult learners and improve their enrollment/completion rates. It is expected the work will be completed in the fall of 2022.