

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 September 16, 2024.

PRESENTER: Dr. Aaron Thompson, CPE President

CPE Events: Directly following this meeting, CPE is hosting our signature event for higher education trustees and regents, the Postsecondary Education Trusteeship Conference. We have a packed agenda over the next day and a half that will provide multiple opportunities for learning and networking. The keynote address is being delivered by Dr. Nancy Zimpher with the National Association of System Heads; I'll kick off day two with my state of higher education in the Commonwealth address. In addition to this conference, there are several upcoming events CPE is hosting this fall. Additional information can be found on our [events webpage](#).

- **Early Postsecondary Opportunities Webinar Series:** On October 8, November 12 and December 10, CPE's Student Access and Success unit will hold webinars for dual credit coordinators and educators, school counselors, administrators, and policymakers to provide a forum to learn from leading experts about early postsecondary opportunities.
- **Removing Barriers to Adult Learner Reenrollment:** On October 17, CPE's Kentucky Student Success Collaborative will hold a day-long event at the University of Louisville's Shelby Campus focused on recruiting post-traditional students and making programs and services adult-friendly.
- **Healthcare Workforce Collaboratory:** The second annual Healthcare Workforce Collaboratory will be held October 30 at the Campbell House in Lexington. This event spotlights statewide efforts underway to enhance Kentucky's healthcare workforce talent pool.

Staff Recognitions: CPE was well represented at the annual policy conference of the State Higher Education Executive Officers association in Washington D.C. in August.

- Dr. Dawn Offutt, Executive Director of Access, Engagement and Belonging, presented with me on Kentucky's diversity policy and the ways this work has helped drive stronger retention and graduation of underrepresented groups.

- Travis Muncie, Chief Information Officer, and Dr. Chris Ledford, Associate Director in the Data and Advanced Analytics unit presented on unmet financial need and the analysis and tools they've developed to help campuses mitigate this issue and support students to completion. Travis also was on the agenda a second time to discuss ways to democratize data, making it more accessible for analysis and policy decisions.
- Dr. Lilly Massa-McKinley, Assistant Vice President of Student Access and Success, as well as CHFS Secretary Eric Freidlander and KY Adult Education Director John Gregory, discussed how to leverage cross-agency partnerships to improve postsecondary access and completion.
- Lee Nimocks, Senior Vice President and Chief of Staff, participated in a panel with colleagues from Tennessee and New Jersey on state strategies to engage and enroll adult learners.

In other staff news:

- I testified to the Interim Joint Committee on Economic Development and Workforce Investment about the State Workforce and Talent Team, a cross-agency effort to improve Kentucky's efforts to increase workforce participation and success. Joining me were the secretary of the Education and Labor Cabinet, secretary of the Cabinet for Economic Development, KCTCS president Ryan Quarles and Chamber of Commerce president Ashley Watts.
- Dr. Leslie Sizemore, Vice President for Workforce and Economic Development, was appointed by the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce to a state committee focusing on childcare challenges facing Kentucky's workforce. The Kentucky Collaborative on Childcare is charged with finding consensus "around durable, long-term solutions to childcare challenges in the Commonwealth."
- Enid Wohlstein, Senior Fellow for the Kentucky Virtual Library, received the 2024 Kentucky Association of School Librarians Award of Merit for her outstanding contributions to advocating for effective school library media services and meaningful educational partnerships.

CPE in the News:

- I was featured on Bill Bryant's [Kentucky Newsmakers on WKYT on August 18](#) discussing emerging trends and issues in higher education.
- My op-ed, "[Kentucky is working hard to educate non-traditional students in higher education.](#)" ran in the *Lexington-Herald Leader* on Monday, September 9.

- I appeared on [KET's Kentucky Edition with Renee Shaw on August 30](#) to discuss recent campus actions on diversity, equity and inclusion; FAFSA changes and enrollment trends.
- Senior Vice President and General Counsel Travis Powell was interviewed by *Spectrum News* as part of a story on campus actions to disband diversity, equity and inclusion offices. I also spoke with Monica Kast of the *Lexington Herald-Leader* on the same issue.