

Public University Sector Makes Gains in Bachelor's Degrees and Graduation Rates

The Council on Postsecondary Education heard annual performance presentations by campus presidents of the public four-year institutions at meetings Thursday and Friday at Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College in Bowling Green.

Despite deep budget cuts and a flattening enrollment, the public four-year universities increased bachelor's degrees by 2.6 percent in the 2017-18 academic year, totaling 19,109 awards

The sector progressed on six-year graduation rates, climbing to 54.4 percent in 2017-18 and up from 51.3 percent from the previous year. Over the past five years, graduation rates have shown consistent improvement overall and for low-income and underrepresented minority populations.

"Momentum is building on our campuses around the types of innovations that equip students for success. We congratulate our public universities for meeting and exceeding many of their performance targets," said Council President Aaron Thompson.

Other metrics show first-to-second-year retention held steady at 76.9 percent and average number of credit hours (138.8) earned at graduation also held steady.

The Council will undertake a midterm review of the strategic agenda and institutional targets next year.

At the upcoming February meeting, the Council will hear the progress report from the Kentucky Community and Technical College System.

In other business, Thompson and Commissioner of Education Wayne Lewis announced the creation of a cross-agency work group to be comprised of several senior staff from each agency. The group will meet on an ongoing basis with the goal of strengthening communications and the flow of information between the two agencies. The group will identify opportunities for greater collaboration, planning and policy development.

The work group will also provide a forum for continued discussion and evaluation around topics such as teacher quality, outreach and advising, postsecondary readiness, and transitions between high school and postsecondary programs.

2018-2019 CAIP Cost-Share Programs Available

The Jackson County AG Development Council and the Jackson County Cattlemen's Association being sponsored in part by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund (KADF) will begin taking applications for the 2018-2019 Phase I County Agricultural Investment Program (CAIP) beginning Monday, December 3. You can pick up applications and program details at the Jackson County Extension Service. Completed applications are due back to the Extension Service by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, December 21. Late applications will not be accepted.

The maximum reimbursement will be determined after the December 21 deadline based on the number of approved applications. Every successful producer application will be eligible for the same amount of cost share. The details on the program requirements will be available when you pick up an application.

Guidelines for the following programs will be available at the Extension Service:

1. Agricultural Diversification
2. Farm Infrastructure
3. Fencing and On-Farm Water
4. Forage and Grain Improvement
5. Large Animal (beef, dairy, equine)
6. On-Farm Energy
7. Poultry and Other Fowl
8. Small Animal (goat, sheep, bee, rabbit)
9. Technology and Leadership Development
10. Value-Added and Marketing



Life-saving opportunity coming soon Live local • Give local
Kentuckians encouraged to give blood, save local lives

Kentucky Blood Center (KBC) is encouraging Kentuckians to roll up their sleeves, donate blood and help Kentucky patients.

As a thank you, those who register to give blood at the drive below will receive a special KBC T-shirt.

Jackson County Community
Fri., Dec. 14 from 10 am - 3 pm
on the KBC Bloodmobile
in the Courthouse Square
at 100 Main St. McKee.

All donors will receive a T-shirt!

Blood donors must be 17-years-old (16 with parental consent), weigh at least 110 pounds, be in general good health, show a photo I.D. and meet additional requirements. Sixteen-year-old donors must have a signed parental permission slip, which can be found at kybloodcenter.org.

To schedule a donation, visit kybloodcenter.org or call 800.775.2522.

About Kentucky Blood Center

Celebrating 50 years of saving lives in Kentucky, KBC is the largest independent, full-service, non-profit blood center in Kentucky. Licensed by the FDA, KBC's sole purpose is to collect, process and distribute blood for patients in Kentucky hospitals.

Beshear Says Kentucky on Pace to Receive \$2.5 billion Payout

Funds boost investments in agriculture, help improve Kentuckians' health outcomes

FRANKFORT, KY. (Nov. 13, 2018) – As the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement or MSA turns 20 on Nov. 23, Attorney General Andy Beshear says Kentucky is on pace to collect nearly \$2.5 billion.

Since the first payment in 1999, Kentucky has already collected more than \$2 billion under the agreement reached by the tobacco industry and state attorneys general in 1998.

"For 20 years the landmark Master Settlement Agreement has made a positive impact on the Commonwealth, supporting early childhood education, health programs, cancer research, and helping to aid our farmers and create sustainable farm-based businesses," Beshear said. "These funds are critical to our state, and the MSA is a textbook example of the importance of attorneys general to hold any industry accountable that would harm our people."

Kentucky received \$102 million in April and is on pace to collect another \$500 million over the next five years, Beshear said, bringing the total for Kentucky to nearly \$2.5 billion.

On behalf of the state, Beshear's office monitors and enforces the terms of the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) and the related statutes, in cooperation with other agencies including the Department of Revenue and the Office of State Budget Director.

Each state determines how the MSA funds are distributed and spent.

In Kentucky, the General Assembly has designated half of the MSA funds be invested in agricultural diversification through grants issued by the Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy, which administers the Kentucky Agriculture Development Fund.

Under the MSA, the tobacco companies agreed to make annual payments, in perpetuity, worth approximately \$208 billion to states and territories that are signatories to the agreement.

Since 1998, tobacco companies have had to compensate states for some of the medical costs associated with tobacco-related illnesses and restrict advertising and promotion of cigarettes in the United States. The payments are determined according to a formula calculated, in part, by the number of cigarettes sold by companies that agreed to join the settlement.

The three largest cigarette manufacturers – Philip Morris USA, RJ Reynolds and Lorillard (the latter two now merged as Reynolds American) – pay most of the MSA payment. The MSA payments will continue as long as traditional cigarettes are sold by the member companies.

The Tobacco Settlement Agreement Fund Oversight Committee oversees the determinations on grant applications from the agricultural fund. Kentucky's additional MSA revenues are used to help improve the health outcomes of Kentucky children and families.



During this season of giving,
give the gift of the sun...

The gift of renewable energy

Your loved ones can receive monthly bill credits throughout the year when you give the gift of a Cooperative Solar panel.

Visit www.cooperativesolar.com for more information.



www.cooperativesolar.com

New Location
Next to Hometown Pharmacy
Inside The Tanning Shop

MELINA'S HAIR AND NAILS
FULL SERVICE SALON

Call For Hours and Appointments
606-287-8841 Walk-Ins Welcome

Ask About Our Christmas Special
Barbara Eversole, Master Stylist and Esthetician
Melina Hunter, Nail Specialist