

TITLE: CPE President Report

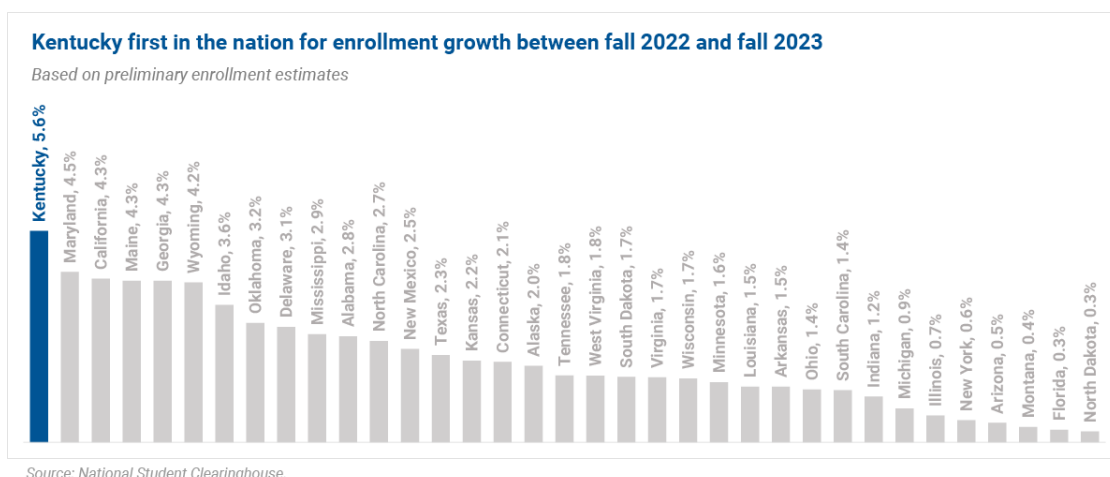
DESCRIPTION: President Thompson will highlight specific initiatives during his report to the Council. This written report serves as his official report for January 19, 2024.

PRESENTER: Dr. Aaron Thompson, CPE President

The legislative session is underway, and it looks to be a busy and impactful session. Below are some updates as we begin 2024.

Legislative items and SJR 98: Travis Powell, vice president and general counsel, is leading our legislative efforts during the regular session. We've already reviewed a number of bills pertaining to education, and several legislators have engaged with us regarding SJR 98 and its findings. We are monitoring bills as they are filed and are watching for the House and Senate budget proposals. Performance funding model adjustments are also an issue we're watching closely, among many others.

National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) data on enrollment gains: A report from the NSC indicates Kentucky had the highest fall-to-fall total enrollment gains in the nation this year. Kentucky experienced a 5.6% increase in overall enrollment growth during that period. The Commonwealth ranked second nationally for undergraduate enrollment growth (5.5%) and fourth nationally for graduate enrollment (4.9%). The data strongly suggests Kentucky is one of the first states to recover from enrollment decreases caused by the pandemic.



Kentucky reaches 55% in its 60x30 attainment goal: Kentucky is just under 5% away from reaching its statewide attainment goal by 2030. The Commonwealth is making significant strides towards reaching its goal, up from 50.3% in 2017. Growth in graduate and professional degrees, bachelor's degrees and certificates helped raise overall growth by 0.8%.

Stan Jones Legacy Award: CPE received Complete College America's (CCA) highest honor, the Stan Jones Legacy Award. Lee Nimocks, senior vice president and chief of staff, accepted the award on behalf of the agency at CCA's annual convening in Las Vegas. Dr. Yolanda Watson Spiva, president of CCA, said CPE has been a model for building internal state coalitions, implementing inter-institutional data practices and successfully creating statewide support for college completion.

CPE events: The beginning of the year is off to a fast start, with many events recently concluded or upcoming.

- CPE hosted the Higher EDquity Symposium on Nov.13-14 at Eastern Kentucky University. Dr. Vanessa A. Sansone, assistant professor in the department of educational leadership and policy studies at The University of Texas at San Antonio, provided the keynote address.
- The Gateway Course Success Convening, hosted by the Kentucky Student Success Collaborative, will take place Jan. 31 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the CPE office in Frankfort. A new statewide strategy will be unveiled along with an agenda geared toward math and English faculty, student success leadership and campus administrators.
- CPE's signature event for college faculty and staff, the Student Success Summit, will take place Feb. 26-27 at Western Kentucky University. Featured speakers include Marty Alvarado, vice president of postsecondary education and training at Jobs for the Future; and Dakota Pawlicki, director of talent hubs at CivicLab.

Personal notes: We are at the beginning of an important legislative session. Much work has been done to prepare, and many CPE staff are heavily involved in the regular session.

- Dr. Muhammad Babar was appointed by the governor to the newly created Kentucky Antisemitism Task Force. Dr. Babar will serve the task force well on this important issue.
- Congratulations and appreciation are in order for Jenifer Fraker. After serving as assistant vice president of government relations and K-12 policies and programs, Jennifer accepted a position at the University of Kentucky as director of government relations. We wish Jennifer the best and thank her for her contributions at CPE.

CPE MEDIA REPORT

CPE staff have consistently spread the Higher Education Matters message through media appearances and speaking engagements. Below are highlights from November, December and part of January.

Speaking engagements: CPE staff have presented or moderated panels on at least 16 occasions since November. Some highlights include:

- Dr. Dawn Offutt, executive director for Access, Engagement, and Belonging; and Dr. Leslie Sizemore, assistant vice president of workforce initiatives, presented and moderated sessions at CPE's Higher EDquity Symposium at Eastern Kentucky University on Nov. 13-14.
- Madison Silvert, chair of the Council on Postsecondary Education, facilitated a conversation with Dr. Belle Whelan, president of Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, during CPE's Postsecondary Education Trusteeship webinar on Nov. 30.
- Lee Nimocks, senior vice president and chief of staff; Travis Muncie, executive director of data, research and advanced analytics; and Dr. Chris Ledford, associate director of data, research and advanced analytics, presented and moderated panels at the Complete College America annual convening in Las Vegas on Dec. 11-12.

Media appearances: CPE staff fielded 14 media requests for information or comment from November through January, as well as 19 appearances in print, digital or broadcast media. Some highlights include:

- Dr. Thompson was featured on "Kentucky Newsmakers with Bill Bryant" on WKYT to review higher education in the Commonwealth in 2023 and overview what's to come in 2024.
- Kentucky and CPE were recognized for implementing successful P-20 initiatives in a media report by Education Strategy Group.
- Lilly Massa-McKinley spoke to the *Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer* about the Kentucky Student Success Collaborative (KYSSC) receiving a \$1.5 million grant from the ECMC Foundation to increase student basic needs support.
- CPE was recognized in the governor's Team Kentucky press briefing and subsequent news release for its work with KCTCS and the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to provide kynectors to campuses to increase access to student basic needs.
- Travis Powell, vice president and general counsel, provided insight about Kentucky State University's financial aid staffing shortage in the *Lexington Herald-Leader*.

- Dr. Thompson and Lee Nimocks spoke with WKU Public Radio about SJR 98 and the potential of a new southeast Kentucky university.