



Students from across Kentucky come together for KCTCS Student Leadership Academy

Each year, the KCTCS Student Leadership Academy brings student leaders from all 16 KCTCS colleges together to participate in a leadership development program. Student leaders engage in a series of seminars designed to refine their leadership philosophy and skillset so they can actively contribute to their college campus, local community, and Kentucky. Each college nominated two students to participate in this year's SLA.

This year, these 32 student leaders heard from West Kentucky Community and Technical College President Dr. Anton Reece as well as the chair of

the KCTCS Board of Regents and KCTCS President Dr. Ryan Quarles. They were encouraged to research and draft their personal leadership philosophy during the summer months, and the students brought those to the leadership academy to discuss and collaborate.

In addition to networking and professional development opportunities, the KCTCS Student Leadership Academy culminates in the election of two student regents to serve on the KCTCS Board of Regents as well as student representatives to serve on the Faculty Senate and the intellectual properties committee.

KCTCS awards nearly 54% of all Kentucky GEDs

An estimated 290,000 Kentucky adults in the working-age population, or nearly 11% of people ages 18-64, do not have a high school diploma or GED credential, which can limit their job prospects and opportunities to enjoy a higher quality of life.

According to Kentucky Adult Education data for fiscal year 2023, the colleges of the Kentucky Community

and Technical College System, which comprise 14 of the 26 adult education local providers, awarded nearly 54% of the more than 2,500 GEDs earned statewide. These colleges served 49% of the 11,700 students enrolled in adult education and generated more than 51% of the measurable skill gains. These numbers include justice-involved students who are housed primarily in local jails.

BY THE NUMBERS: KCTCS enrollment soars for a 10-year high



85,000

STUDENTS EXPECTED TO ATTEND A KCTCS COLLEGE IN THE FALL

8.4%

INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR

7.2%

INCREASE IN CREDENTIAL-SEEKING STUDENTS

16.4%

INCREASE IN CREDIT-BEARING WORKFORCE, NON-DEGREE STUDENTS

10.4%

INCREASE IN NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENTS, ADULTS 25 & OVER, WHICH MAKE UP 32% OF TOTAL KCTCS ENROLLMENT

The Kentucky Community and Technical College System expects to welcome more than 85,000 students this fall, an 8.4% increase over last year.

This fall's enrollment will set a 10-year record with substantial growth across all student classifications, races and ethnicities, age groups and in targeted industry sectors.

Following the complications and delay of the rollout of the new FAFSA, the system's new FAFSA Task Force, along with faculty and staff, went to work to mitigate the enrollment losses. As a result, KCTCS received 95% of the total number of FAFSA applications year-to-date relative to 2023-2024.

By the end of the 2024-25 academic year, approximately 112,000 students are expected to enroll in either an associate program designed to transfer to a four-year university or in one of the 104 technical programs.

KCTCS launches new net price calculator to increase financial transparency for students

In July, KCTCS launched Meadow Price, a modern net price calculator designed to provide students with an accurate and personalized estimate of their college expenses after financial aid. The net price calculator is available across all 16 KCTCS colleges.

The main benefit of the tool is to help students estimate how much it would cost to attend college and how much financial aid they could expect to receive to cover those costs without having to go through the full admissions application or the FAFSA application process. For students who

are curious about whether they could afford to go to college, the mobile-friendly tool provides quick feedback on the real cost of college for their situation.

"We believe in providing our students with the tools they need to make the best possible decisions about their education," said KCTCS President Ryan Quarles. "Financial transparency is crucial, and our new net price calculator is a significant step forward in helping our students understand their potential costs so they can plan accordingly."

Kentucky congressmen join KCTCS to discuss removing barriers for student-parents

KCTCS hosted Congressman Andy Barr and Congressman Brett Guthrie at two of its colleges for roundtable discussions in partnership with the Prichard Committee. Barr joined college and community leaders at Bluegrass Community and Technical College in Lexington and Guthrie joined Dr. Ryan Quarles, college leaders, and state representatives at the Elizabethtown Community and Technical College BlueOval SK Training Center in Glendale. Both conversations were centered around child care and other wrap-around services provided

by KCTCS, which help remove barriers for student-parents and increase their chances of earning their certificates or degrees and entering the workforce.

Student-parents joined these state and national leaders to offer the perspective of a non-traditional student working on earning their credentials to transfer to a four-year institution or to enter the workforce. These students emphasized the importance of their children seeing them succeed in order to encourage them to pursue higher education.

New partnership agreements benefit KCTCS students and employees

Over the summer, KCTCS signed two agreements to establish and renew partnerships with Kentucky higher education partners.

In July, KCTCS signed a new agreement with Midway University to help more KCTCS transfer students continue their education through a seamless and supportive transition to Midway. This agreement ensures that both institutions will work together to maximize the application and acceptance of transfer credit and will also provide the essential support services for student success. Midway University will offer two transfer scholarships to KCTCS students. The renewable \$1,000 scholarship is available to students who graduate with any associate degree and plan

to enter one of Midway's evening or online programs. The second scholarship is based on college GPA. All application fees will be waived except for students using the international student application. This agreement also provides a 15% reduction in tuition to KCTCS employees, their spouses and dependents.

In August, KCTCS and Morehead State University renewed a 50% tuition discount agreement in support of professional development for full-time KCTCS employees. This partnership allows any full-time KCTCS employee attending MSU and any full-time MSU employee attending a KCTCS college to receive a 50% tuition discount in any undergraduate or graduate program.

KCTCS, KSU announce tuition-free bachelor's degrees for community college associate degree holders, transfer students

Kentucky State University and KCTCS announced a new scholarship that guarantees a tuition-free bachelor's degree for Pell-eligible KCTCS associate degree earners and transfer students still working on a two-year degree.

The Kentuckians Pathway Scholarship is a renewable, last dollar and non-refundable scholarship program for students transferring from KCTCS. The scholarship covers fall and spring college tuition after federal and state aid and external awards have been applied.

This scholarship development grew out of a transfer agreement last October between the two institutions. The agreement called for investments in education opportunities, such as grants and scholarships, to reduce financial barriers for students transferring to KSU with an associate degree from the state's 16 community colleges.

WKCTC honored with higher education award

West Kentucky Community and Technical College has been named the two-year institutional recipient of the 2024 Barefoot and Gardner Award. This award is presented annually by the Gardner Institute, which recognizes postsecondary institutions that have taken active steps to successfully mitigate inequitable performance gaps for historically underrepresented student populations.

This award recognizes an initiative led by WKCTC President Dr. Anton Reece in 2021-22 to holistically review and address gaps in student success outcomes as a "deep dedication to improving the college experience for first-generation, underrepresented, low-income, rural, and adult learners."

College leaders named to new positions

Dr. Phil Neal was selected as acting executive vice president and provost of KCTCS. He brings more than 30 years of experience in higher education to this role and served as president of Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College in Bowling Green for 11 years. Following Neal's departure from SKYCTC, Dr. Brooke Justice was named as the college's interim president. Justice brings nearly 20 years of experience in higher education to this role. She most recently served as vice president of student services at SKYCTC.