



# KCTCS

## GOOD NEWS REPORT

### APRIL 2025



### KCTCS, KDE launch statewide 'Going Pro' Day to celebrate students who sign on to high-demand careers

Every day, student athletes sign contracts to "go pro" in their sports and are celebrated across the country. The "Going Pro" Signing Day, launched by the Kentucky Community and Technical College System and held in the Capitol rotunda, celebrated students and graduates of Kentucky high schools, area technology centers, and KCTCS who are "going pro" and committing to high-demand careers.

The Kentucky Department of Education joined KCTCS in sponsoring the event this year.

During 2023-24, nearly 95% of all KCTCS credentials awarded were in programs aligned to the state's top five targeted industry sectors – advanced manufacturing, business/IT, construction/skilled trades, healthcare, and transportation/logistics – or designed to transfer to a four-year university.

KDE's Office of Career and Technical Education reports high school students in the 2023-24 12th grade cohort earned more than 26,000 postsecondary credentials.

### KCTCS Establishes New Student Leader Peer Team to Encourage Student Collaboration and Innovation

Academic Collaboration and Excellence (ACE) was established to facilitate engagement between the two KCTCS Student Regents and student leaders across KCTCS. Requested by Regent Shouse and Regent Higdon, ACE held its first meeting in February, which was attended by 11 students representing eight colleges. Six of the students who attended are current SGA presidents and all hold leadership roles with their college community. The group discussed several emerging priorities for the student population and concerns specifically expressed by the Student Regents. ACE members agreed to continue meeting monthly and will collaborate throughout the year.

## BY THE NUMBERS:



**7.9%**  
**INCREASE IN ENROLLMENT**

AS OF THE END OF MARCH, THE  
KCTCS HEADCOUNT IS 74,673, AN  
INCREASE OF 5,438 STUDENTS OR  
7.9% COMPARED TO LAST YEAR AT  
THIS TIME.

**42,910**  
**CREDENTIALS AWARDED**  
**IN 2023-24**

KCTCS AWARDED A TOTAL OF  
42,910 CREDENTIALS TO 22,645  
GRADUATES IN 2023-24, BOTH  
ALL-TIME HIGHS.



## KCTCS Reaffirms Statewide Transfer Agreements with WKU and Murray State

In the beginning of 2025, KCTCS reaffirmed transfer agreements with Western Kentucky University and Murray State University that will help more students from across Kentucky easily transfer from a community and technical college to these universities to earn four-year degrees.

Each of the universities had transfer agreements in place with specific community colleges and in specific degree pathways. Both agreements expand access to the pathways to students in all 16 colleges.

At WKU, transfer students will have access to automatic transfer scholarships up to \$4,000 and numerous support services through the WKU Transfer Center designed to ease the transition and provide guidance and support.

At Murray State University, new, first-time transfer students are eligible for a scholarship when they are admitted to Murray State. The GPA-based scholarships are up to \$4,000 and are awarded for three years or until a bachelor's degree is received. One important facet of the agreement is that any KCTCS student who follows one of Murray State's transfer pathways will receive dedicated advising through the university's regional campuses or their transfer center.

Each year, about 14,000 KCTCS students transfer to a four-year college or university.



## KCTCS Partners with Boys and Girls Club to Award Scholarships to Youth of the Year Finalists

KCTCS formalized a partnership with the Boys and Girls Clubs Kentucky Alliance to provide scholarships to the finalists of the state Youth of the Year program. This program has been Boys and Girls Club of America's premier recognition and character development program since 1947, representing the culmination of the work that happens in each club every day. Youth of the Year distinguishes and celebrates the extraordinary achievements of club members who embody the values of leadership, service, academic excellence, and healthy lifestyles, and provides opportunities for club members to build critical skills and experiences and celebrate their accomplishments among their peers. While one club member is named the state Youth of the Year each year and advances to the national competition, the other state finalists are very accomplished. KCTCS awarded \$2,000 scholarships to each of the state Youth of the Year finalists. Many of the KCTCS colleges are involved with their local Boys and Girls Clubs and several host clubs on campus. This builds on those great relationships and provides resources to families whose youth are focused on continuing their education.

## KCTCS Enrollment Taskforce Begins to Address Enrollment Cliff and Strategic Enrollment Management

In January, Dr. Quarles created the KCTCS Enrollment Taskforce to develop strategies and metrics to grow enrollment and mitigate the impact of the possible impending enrollment cliff on KCTCS. This taskforce is also working to establish a strategic enrollment management planning framework for the KCTCS colleges and the System Office. The task force is made up of 19 representatives from the colleges and the System Office from student affairs, financial aid, advising, online learning, marketing, admissions, academic affairs, Workforce Solutions and more. The taskforce will have recommendations in the coming months.

## Serving Up Solutions Raises \$65,000 for Food Pantries Benefitting KCTCS Students

KCTCS is taking steps to address food insecurity at our colleges and across Kentucky. In February, we partnered with Feeding Kentucky to host the 8th annual Serving Up Solutions, which raised more than \$65,000 for food banks that supply food for organizations throughout the Commonwealth, including the food pantries at all 16 colleges. In a study conducted by Trellis Research last year, 48% of KCTCS students who responded reported they didn't know where their next meal was coming from. Around one in six Kentuckians are suffering from food insecurity and almost 16% don't know where their next meal will come from. Each year, Serving Up Solutions invites state legislators to show their commitment to addressing food insecurity in Kentucky by donning aprons and serving food to event attendees.

