

At the Crossroads

Prospects for Kentucky's Educational Future

November 18, 2003 ■ Kentucky International Convention Center ■ Louisville, Kentucky

***The Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center, the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority,
and the Kentucky Higher Education Student Loan Corporation***

in partnership with

***The Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities; the Council on Postsecondary Education;
the Education, Arts and Humanities Cabinet; the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce; the Kentucky Department
of Education; Kentucky Educational Television; the Division of Early Childhood Development; and the
Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence.***

- 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Monday, November 17, 2003 Registration
7:00 – 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, November 18, 2003 Registration
- 8:30 – 8:45 a.m. *Welcome*, Mary Lassiter, Chair, Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center Board of Directors
- 8:45 – 9:10 a.m. *A Look Back Over the Last Eight Years*, Governor Paul E. Patton
- 9:15 – 10:10 a.m. *A National Perspective on the Current State of Education*
Moderator: Bob Sexton, Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence
Virginia Edwards, Editor, *Education Week* and *Teacher Magazine*
David Longanecker, Executive Director, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
- 10:15 – 10:40 a.m. *A Vision of Kentucky's Educational Future*, Governor-elect (invited)
- 10:45 – 11:00 a.m. Break
- 11:00 – Noon *KET Panel Discussion with Bill Goodman*, confirmed panelists include: Senator Lindy Casebier (Chair, Senate Education Committee), Dr. Marlene Helm (Secretary, Education, Arts and Humanities Cabinet), Mr. Bill Harper (Owner, Harper Industries), Dr. Cheryl King (Commissioner, Department of Adult Education and Literacy), Dr. Tom Layzell (President, Council on Postsecondary Education), Representative Frank Rasche (Chair, House Education Committee), Representative Jody Richards (Speaker of the House, Kentucky General Assembly), Dr. Kim Townley (Executive Director, Office of Early Childhood Development), Dr. Gene Wilhoit (Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education), and Senator David Williams (President of the Senate, Kentucky General Assembly).
- 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. Lunch, United States Senator Mitch McConnell (invited)
- 1:30 – 2:45 p.m. Concurrent Sessions (5 sessions will be held during this time)

KIDS NOW = Current Investment for Future Success — Four years ago the Office of Early Childhood Development launched a multifaceted effort to reach the 2020 vision that “all young children in Kentucky are healthy and safe, possess the foundation that will enable school and personal success, and live in strong families that are supported and strengthened within their communities.” With 90 percent of the architecture of the brain built in the first three years of life, the “P” in Kentucky’s system of P-16 education represents the foundation upon which the success of the entire system is dependent. This panel will discuss ongoing efforts and future prospects of the KIDS NOW initiative.

Assessment and Accountability: Melding the Old with the New — The federal attempt to overhaul elementary and secondary education through the No Child Left Behind Act is causing Kentucky’s policymakers and educators to grapple with how to meld it with the state’s current system of assessment

and accountability. This panel will discuss the No Child Left Behind Act, how Kentucky is dealing with it, and the future prospects for assessment and accountability.

Funding Adequacy and Student Achievement — Three different studies in the past year have concluded that Kentucky's publicly-funded elementary and secondary school system requires significant additional funding in order to provide all children with an equitable and adequate education. These proposed annual funding increases range from \$565 million to \$2.3 billion. However, some question whether additional funding will result in higher student achievement. This panel will consider the issue of additional funding and whether it will produce better results.

College Affordability and Financial Aid--Unmet Need — In Kentucky and throughout the nation, many factors limit student access to higher education. This panel of national experts will present their varied perspectives on the impact these obstacles present to policymakers as they attempt to increase access to higher education.

College Affordability and Reauthorization of the HEA — A panel of distinguished financial aid professionals will discuss the status of Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. Faced with budget constraints and the current economic climate, these professionals will discuss the efforts of Congress to expand access to higher education and the next steps available to positively impact families and students through the Reauthorization process.

2:45 – 3:00 p.m. Break

3:00 – 4:15 p.m. Concurrent Sessions (5 sessions will be held during this time)

College Affordability and Merit Scholarships in Kentucky — During its 2003 session, the General Assembly commissioned a study of the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship program to be conducted by the Legislative Research Commission. This panel will discuss the study's findings and policy options.

College Affordability, Financial Aid and Cost of Attendance — This session will focus on the efforts of public and private institutions to minimize the impact of rising higher education costs on families and students. Panelists will also discuss the continued availability of state-funded financial aid programs and the ability of families and students to meet the rising financial burden of attending postsecondary institutions.

Cultural Effects on College-Going Rates in Kentucky — Public and private entities have expended significant resources on outreach activities to encourage Kentuckians to enter college and obtain degrees. This panel will include professionals who work directly with high school students making the decision to enter college. The session will explore the effectiveness of existing outreach programs in light of the fact that Kentucky's college going rates have consistently remained at the 50 percent mark.

Collective Progress Is Not Enough, Dealing with the Achievement Gap — Recent legislation at both the federal and state levels has created a renewed impetus to identify and narrow differences in academic achievement levels among various student subgroups: black, Asian, Hispanic, low-income, non-native English speakers, and the disabled. Panelists will define and describe the achievement gap, its consequences, strategies for bridging it, and future prospects.

Adult Education and Literacy: Ensuring That No Adult Is Left Behind — Progress continues toward improving the educational attainment of adult Kentuckians who lack a high school diploma, function at low literacy levels, or speak English as a second language. How do we build on our progress toward a more literate Kentucky in a time of constrained resources?