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Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) and John N. Gardner Institute Team Up to Transform Transfer, Enhance Student Success, and Advance Commonwealth Education Goals

Brevard, North Carolina – The [John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education](http://www.jngi.org) is pleased to announce that the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) has elected to use the Institute’s signature Foundations of Excellence® process to evaluate and improve rates of successful two-to-four-year transfer at all sixteen institutions that comprise the KCTCS system. Since 2003, the not-for-profit Gardner Institute has worked with nearly 240 colleges and universities – including more than 110 community colleges – to conduct the [Foundations of Excellence](http://www.jngi.org) self-study and action-planning process.

During the 2011-12 academic year, Ashland, Big Sandy, Blue Grass, Bowling Green, Elizabethtown, Gateway, Hazard, Henderson, Hopkinsville, Jefferson, Madisonville, Maysville, Owensboro, Somerset, Southeast Kentucky, and West Kentucky Community and Technical Colleges will work with the Gardner Institute to examine institutional performance in encouraging and supporting students who plan to transfer from a KCTCS institution to a four-year institution to continue their studies. These efforts will yield institution-specific action plans that the Colleges will respectively implement to improve rates of transfer and the success of KCTCS transfer students at receiving four-year institutions during the three-to-five years that follow.

“The transfer experience is an under-analyzed and under-addressed college transition point,” said John N. Gardner, the Institute’s President. “During my near four decades of work with student transition, I have seen thousands of institutions implement all kinds of programs to help first-year students, but very few have given the same attention to transfer student success – and even fewer have a strategic plan that guides the limited efforts that do exist.”

“The lack of plans that help students successfully transfer means that institutions, by-in-large, are not serving potential transfers in an excellent manner,” continued Gardner. “As a byproduct, the institutions are failing the students, the communities, and the nation of which they are a part.”

“National studies show that large numbers of community college students intend to transfer and earn a baccalaureate degree, but the rate at which they actually do so is comparatively and unacceptably low” added Andrew Koch, the Gardner Institute’s Executive Vice President. “Much of this underperformance has to do with the lack of attention that the sending and receiving institutions give to their transfer students. The Kentucky Community and Technical Colleges are taking a bold and laudable step to rectify this issue.”

“The Foundations of Excellence planning work will help advance both the Kentucky Community and Technical College Systems’ strategic “Transfer Transformation” plan and the Commonwealth’s overall

higher education policy agenda,” commented Dr. Michael McCall, President of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System. “As evidenced when Governor Beshear signed House Bill 160 into law, the Kentucky Legislature and Governor’s office have set ambitious goals for student success, and the Foundations of Excellence work that the sixteen KCTCS colleges are undertaking is all about helping the Commonwealth realize these goals. We will use this work to help KCTCS transform transfer.”



Presidents from the participating organizations and institutions at the recent Kentucky Community and Technical College Foundations of Excellence Launch Meeting. Bottom row (l-r): Dr. John Gardner (Gardner Institute), Dr. Steve Greiner (Hazard CC), Dr. Anthony Newberry (Jefferson CC), Dr. Thelma White (Elizabethtown CC), Dr. Bruce Ayers (Southeast KY CC), Dr. Michael B. McCall (KCTCS President), Dr. Judith Rhoads (Madisonville CC), Dr. James Selbe (Hopkinsville CC), Dr. James Klauber (Owensboro CC), & Dr. Robert King (KY Council for Postsecondary Education President). Top row (l-r): Dr. Jay Box (KCTCS Chancellor), Dr. Edward Hughes (Gateway CC), Dr. Jo Marshall (Somerset CC), Dr. Nathan Hodges (Bowling Green CC), Dr. Gregory Adkins (Ashland CC), Dr. Augusta Julian (Bluegrass CC), Dr. Kris Williams (Henderson CC), Dr. George Edwards (Big Sandy CC), & Dr. Ed Story (Maysville CC).

Educators from the sixteen Kentucky Community and Technical Colleges participating in the Foundations of Excellence process came together for a launch meeting at the KCTCS system office in Versailles, Kentucky on September 20-21, 2011.

For more information, contact:

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