STEVEN L. BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Secretary of State
Frankfort
Kentucky

2008-1109
October 21, 2008

RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION WORK GROUP

WHEREAS, this Administration believes that no citizen of the Commonwealth, who has the drive and ability to succeed, should be denied access to the benefits of a college education simply because of his or her inability to pay for it; and

WHEREAS, the attainment of a college degree has been demonstrated as a leading indicator of a higher quality of life, better employment opportunities and higher income levels; and

WHEREAS, a college-educated populace can attract the high-tech jobs of the future to the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997 ("House Bill 1"), as codified at KRS 164.003(2)(a), called for "a seamless, integrated system of postsecondary education strategically planned and adequately funded to enhance economic development and quality of life," and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of this Administration to conceive and implement an immediate plan of action that ensures college affordability and access for more of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of this Administration to ensure that the ambitious goals for postsecondary reform outlined in House Bill 1 are fully realized by 2020; and

WHEREAS, it will require the thoughts, ideas, and interaction of all facets of state government, the educational community, and the private sector to come up with this plan that capitalizes on promising ideas already promulgated, and blends them in with new and emerging ideas, to result in a feasible and implementable plan:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steven L. Beshear, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 12.029 of the Kentucky Revised Statutes, do hereby ORDER and DIRECT the following:

1. There is hereby created and established the "Higher Education Work Group" ("Work Group"). The Work Group shall be administratively attached to the Finance and Administration Cabinet. The Finance and Administration Cabinet shall provide administrative support to the Work Group. Policy and research staffing, and other support, shall be provided primarily by the Council on Post-Secondary Education.

2. The mission of the Work Group shall be as follows:

    a) By January 15, 2009, the Work Group shall deliver to me a plan of action, including any recommended executive measures and legislative proposals that would, within current budget constraints, promote coherency and efficiency in the delivery of financial aid; and potentially secure cost

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savings that could be shifted to provide more financial aid for low to middle-income students. Any aspects of the plan needing legislative authority will then be immediately disseminated to the General Assembly with the intention of enacting its provisions in the 2009 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

b) By September 1, 2009, the Work Group shall deliver to me a plan of action, including any executive measures and legislative proposals that would:

i) Move the state closer toward the goal of ensuring access to higher education to all Kentucky students, of all income levels; and

ii) Develop a clear roadmap for reaching the level of state funding needed between now and 2020 for the institutions to achieve the goals of House Bill 1 from 1997. This roadmap should ensure transparency and fairness in determining state support, and the institutions would continue to increase productivity and scale back from the high rate of tuition increases adopted in the last decade.

Any aspects of the plan needing legislative authority will then be disseminated to the General Assembly with the intention of enacting its provisions in the 2010 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

3. The membership of the Work Group shall consist of the following who are hereby appointed to serve by this Order:

a) Joan Coleman, President, AT & T Kentucky, Louisville;
b) Gary Cox, President of the Association on Independent Colleges and Universities of Kentucky;
c) Richard Crofts, Interim President, Council on Postsecondary Education;
d) Edward Cunningham, CEO, Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority;
e) David Grissom, Chairman, Mayfair Capital, Louisville
f) Jean Hale, Chairman & CEO & President, Community Trust Bank Corp., Pikeville;
g) Larry Hayes, Secretary of the Governor's Executive Cabinet and Acting Secretary, Cabinet for Economic Development;
h) Ed Holmes, President, EHI Consultants, Lexington;
i) Alice Houston, President & CEO, Houston-Johnson, Inc., Louisville;
j) Ronnie James, President & CEO, James Marine, Paducah;
k) Robert Lekites, President of UPS Airlines, Louisville;
l) Jonathan Miller, Secretary, Finance and Administration Cabinet;
m) Helen Mountjoy, Secretary, Education and Workforce Cabinet;
n) Jim O'Brien, Chairman & CEO, Ashland Oil, Covington;
o) The Honorable Paul Patton, former Governor, Pikeville;
p) Ben Richmond, President, Louisville Urban League;
q) Steve St. Angelo, President, Toyota Kentucky, Georgetown; and
r) Vic Staffieri, CEO, Chairman & President of EON, Louisville.

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4. The Co-Chairs of the Work Group shall be Mira Ball, Chief Financial Officer, Ball Homes, Lexington; and Pete Mahurin, Senior Vice President, Hilliard Lyons, Bowling Green. The Work Group shall meet upon the call of the co-chairs. Members of the Work Group shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed their out-of-pocket expenses.

5. The Work Group shall request the participation of four (4) Members of the Kentucky General Assembly, asking each of the following legislative leaders to designate one (1) member from their respective chambers to serve on the Work Group: the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the Minority Leader of the Senate, and the Minority Leader of the House. The Work Group shall request the participation of the Honorable Crit Luallen, the Auditor of Public Accounts.

6. There shall be two (2) subcommittees formed within the Work Group: an Affordability Subcommittee, which will focus on efforts to make postsecondary education more affordable for Kentucky citizens and a Strategic Planning Subcommittee, which will focus on developing a clear roadmap on reaching the reform goals by 2020, as outlined in House Bill 1. These subcommittees shall report to the full Work Group in a fashion that will allow sufficient time for the full Work Group to meet its reporting deadlines as set out in Section 2 above.

7. The Affordability Subcommittee shall be chaired by the Secretary of Finance and Administration, and the Strategic Planning Subcommittee shall be chaired by the Secretary of the Governor's Executive Cabinet. The Subcommittees shall meet upon the call of the Subcommittee Chairs.

8. Members of the full Work Group are invited to participate in the meetings of either or both of the two subcommittees.

9. Upon request by the co-chairs and subcommittee chairs, all state agencies are directed to assist the Work Group with accomplishing the directives previously set forth, including the Cabinet for Economic Development, the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet, the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority, and the Office of the State Budget Director.

Please issue Commissions to the persons herein appointed to serve as members of the Work Group.

STEVEN L. BESHEAR, GOVERNOR
Commonwealth of Kentucky

TREY GRAYSON
Secretary of State