



NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release:

**Bluegrass Higher Education Consortium Finalizes
Agenda For October 31 Presidents Conference:
*Dream It, Achieve It! Attaining Goals Previously Unimagined***

LEXINGTON, Kentucky – The Bluegrass Higher Education Consortium have finalized a challenging and promising agenda, focused on major transformation in college and career planning, for its second annual Presidents Conference on October 31 at the Griffin Gate Marriott Resort, President Augusta Julian of Bluegrass Community & Technical College and President John Roush of Centre College, co-chairs of the consortium, have announced.

The public is invited to attend the conference. Registration is \$80 full conference per person. www.bluegrasstomorrow.org to register.

The Conference will be highlighted by a luncheon panel discussion focusing on how higher education can help our region attain the goal of college and career readiness and STEM preparedness, that includes new institution presidents Dr. Lyle Roelofs of Berea College and Dr. Michael Benson of Eastern Kentucky University, House Majority Leader Rocky Adkins, David Adkisson President of the Kentucky Chamber, and Lu Young of Fayette County Public Schools. The session moderator will be Gene Wilhoit of the National Center on Innovation and Education.

All of the sessions are focused on advancing the work and discussions related to the goals and principles that were established at last year's initial Presidents Superintendents Summit:

**Principles & Goals From 2012
Presidents Superintendents Summit**

Principle 1: There must be a major transformation in how we approach career planning and preparation, and how we help students make college and career choices.

Principle 2: There must be a new focus on what skills, talents and capacities are necessary for the emerging young adult and tomorrow's citizen-leader, to define the characteristics of the "ideal young adult."

Principle 3: There must be opportunities for the well-rounded young adult to become skilled in three important disciplines: 1) STEM (science, technology, engineering, math), 2) the arts, and 3) workplace competencies.

Principle 4: There must be advocacy with government and legislative leaders to address the challenges posed by such ambitious goals, which may challenge the Commonwealth's educational policies.

Goals:

- 1. Reduce dropouts from both high school and higher education.**
- 2. Improve college-going rates.**
- 3. Increase the number of associate and bachelor's degrees in the Bluegrass.**
- 4. Increase the employment opportunities for the resulting highly skilled and educated workforce.**

The Bluegrass Higher Education Consortium was chartered in 2012 with the mission of advancing the region both economically and educationally. The 12 participating regionally accredited four-year institutions are: Asbury University, Berea College, Bluegrass Community and Technical College, Centre College, Eastern Kentucky University, Georgetown College, Midway College, Morehead State University, Kentucky State University, Sullivan University, Transylvania University and the University of Kentucky. The Presidents of each institution constitute the executive committee of the board of directors.



**Bluegrass Tomorrow “Create Bluegrass 4.0”
Bluegrass Higher Education Consortium Presidents’ Conference
“Dream It, Achieve It! Attaining Goals Previously Unimagined!”
Griffin Gate Marriott Resort
October 31, 2013**

7:30 AM Vision Awards Breakfast – Rob Rumpke

Roll Out of National Park Service, River Trails Conservation Assistance Program Trails Plan for the Region – Bluegrass Bike Hike Horseback Trails Alliance Stakeholders.

9:30 AM Break

10:00 AM

10:00 AM – **BHEC Presidents Conference Opens**

Session 1--Setting the Stage-Transforming our Thinking: Principles, Goals, Metrics, Measurables for creating College & Career Ready Adults.
Moderator: Rob Rumpke, President Bluegrass Tomorrow/ Bluegrass Higher Education Consortium.

- Review of last year’s Presidents Superintendents Summit –
President Augusta Julian, Bluegrass Community & Technical College
- Updated principles, goals, vision – **President John Roush**, Centre College
- Moving the Bluegrass Region forward to a “Learning Community” – How do we measure progress? What statistics do we measure? Placing metrics on our goals from the Presidents Superintendents Summit-
Bill Farmer, United Way
- Business Voice: What would an ideal worker look like? Why is attaining this goal important? – **Greg Higdon**, Kentucky Association of Manufacturers

10:30 AM **Session 2— Work Ready With Steam: Advancing The Discussion On The Creation of a Seamless College and Career Portal:** *“There must be a major transformation in how we approach career planning and preparation, and how we help students make college and career choices – (Principle 1) through Integration of STEAM and Workplace Skills (Principle 3)*
Moderator: President Michael Benson, Eastern Kentucky University

- Overview of College & Career Readiness Committee’s Work in 2013, and what would transformed college and career planning look like? – **Daryl Smith**, Kentucky Utilities & Chair of Bluegrass Workforce Investment Board
- State Perspective: How do we attain the goal of a seamless college and career portal? – **Tom West**, Executive Director Kentucky Workforce Investment Board.
- Secondary and Higher Education Perspective “STEAM Academy” – **Tom Shelton**, Superintendent Fayette Co. and **Mary John O’Hair**, Dean College of Education, University of Kentucky
- Community Perspective: **Mendi Goble**, Richmond Chamber of Commerce on the process of developing a “Work Ready” Community

11:00 AM
11:15 AM

Discussion

11:15 AM
11:30 AM

Focus on the Target--STEMx Innovations--Principle 3: *There must be opportunities for the well-rounded young adult to become skilled in three important disciplines: 1) STEMx (science, technology, engineering, math) 2) the arts including liberal arts and 3) workplace competencies, soft skills).*

Moderator: President Mary Evans Sias, Kentucky State University

- Overview of committee’s work – **Eve Proffitt**, UK College of Education
- What would transformed STEM education look like? – Reynoldsburg High School, STEM model (video)
- Business, government, community expectations of a STEM career pathway
- Why are workplace competencies/soft skills important?

President Mary Evans Sias, Kentucky State University

11:30 AM
11:45 AM

Discussion

12:00 PM
12:15 PM

Lunch

12:15 PM
1:15 P.M.

Mobilizing The Village: *There Must Be Collaboration Between Higher Education, Secondary Education, Business & Government to Achieve College & Career Readiness and STEM Preparedness.*

Moderated Panel Discussion -Moderator: Gene Wilhoit, National Center on Innovation and Education. Panelists: President Michael Benson Eastern Kentucky University; President Lyle Roelofs Berea College, Lu Young Fayette County Schools; David Adkisson, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce; Rep. Rocky Adkins, House Majority Leader.

- 1:15 PM Leadership
1:30 PM
- Leadership is Critical --Planting a New Seed--Initiative 1: Academic Institute Roll Out**
Moderator: President Wayne Andrews, Morehead State University
- Announcement of Bluegrass Higher Education Consortium Academic Leadership Academy – Co-Chairs **Bonnie Banker** Asbury University, **Sherry Robinson** Eastern Kentucky University.
 - Public University Perspective and what would regional leadership efforts look like? – **Gene Lineberry**, University of Kentucky.
 - New Idea: Investigating STEM Leadership Academy for Secondary and Post Secondary Educators – **Eve Proffitt**, University of Kentucky
- 1:30 PM
2:15 P.M.
- Finale—Targeting the Characteristics of the Bluegrass Young Professional—**
Overarching Goal of the Conference: *There must be a new focus on what skills, talents and capacities are necessary for the emerging young adult and tomorrow’s citizen-leader to define the characteristics of the “ideal young adult” in the Bluegrass Region. (Principle 2)*
Moderator: **Gene Wilhoit**, National Center on Innovation and Education
- Community Perspective: Why is developing creative talent in the Bluegrass important? What does our current young professional look like? **Phil and Marnie Holoubek**, Lexington Real Estate Company and founders of Lexington Young Professionals Association (LYPA), brought Creative Cities Conference to Lexington, Legacy Trail leaders.
 - Higher Education Perspective: What does the ideal young adult look like? College Ready? How do we get there? – **Dr. Randolph Hollingsworth**, Assistant Provost, Office of Undergraduate Education, University of Kentucky
 - Workforce Perspective: What does the ideal young adult look like? Workplace Ready? How do we get there? **Dale Winkler**, Associate Commissioner, Kentucky Office of Career and Technical Education
 - Student Perspective: Student Government Presidents chime in.
- 2:15 PM Adjourn