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Kentucky ranks 8th in nation in total degree, credential growth

Degrees, credentials up 59% during 10-year period

The Council on Postsecondary Education issued the “Kentucky Completion Report” that shows total degrees and credentials awarded grew 59% over a 10-year period, from 39,203 awards in 2003-04 to 62,339 awards in 2012-13. This growth at Kentucky’s public two-year, four-year and independent sectors ranked eighth in the nation.



“Clearly, this report confirms that Kentucky has a very positive story to tell. Our campuses have made remarkable progress in ramping up degree production and more closely aligning degrees and credentials to workforce needs,” said Council President Bob King.

Kentucky’s largest 10-year growth, at 159%, was in undergraduate workforce certificates. The number of certificates grew by more than 12,000 awards between 2004-05 and 2013-14, according to the report.

When it comes to fields of study, the greatest growth was in workforce trades, up 111%; health, up 85%; and STEM, up 51%.

Associate degrees also made significant gains with a 52% increase, while bachelor’s degrees grew steadily at 24%.

From 2004-05 through 2013-14, the growth in total degrees and credentials awarded in Kentucky rose 53 percent, up from 42,773 in 2004-05 to 65,481 in 2013-14. However, there is cause for caution since the pace of growth is slowing.

The growth in total awards was led by the two-year public sector with 101% increase, climbing from 15,741 awards in 2004-05 to 31,715 awards in 2013-14. These gains were bolstered by steady increases by the independents at 43% and four-year publics at 20%.

The mix of degree and credential types awarded in Kentucky shifted as the number of degrees and credentials awarded grew, according to the report.

The largest shift occurred in the share of certificates awarded. In 2004-05, undergraduate certificates accounted for only 19% of all

Cont’d on

The Lt. governor has an Industrial Engineering degree, and MBA and served in the Air Force. After service, she spent 19 years in the corrugated packaging industry, which is why she and her husband, Doyle, moved to Bowling Green.

“My husband and I love Kentucky. Soon after moving here we knew this was where we wanted to put down roots.”

FAC Spotlight: Lt. Governor Jenean Hampton Meets Finance Executive Team

Briefed on what FAC does

For a little more than an hour late last week, Lt. Governor Jenean Hampton met with Secretary William Landrum and other FAC executive staff. She is in the process of visiting cabinets and different agencies to meet with staff and to learn more about programs and initiatives throughout state government.

“It’s like drinking from a firehose,” said Lt. Gov. Hampton, about getting acclimated to state government after a private sector career.

It’s good though. She pointed out there are many good people on board with the administration and she looks forward to doing what’s right for the good of Kentucky.

Secretary Landrum introduced everyone and gave her a synopsis of Finance Cabinet roles and responsibilities, noting that FAC’s work primarily supports all of state government.

The Lt. governor shared some of her background.

She grew up in Detroit and is thankful to still have her 88-year-old mother around, who now lives with the Hamptons. Her mother instilled a strong work ethic and always stressed the importance of education.



Secretary Landrum talking with the Lt. Governor and providing an overview of the Cabinet.

Fish Consumption Advisory Guidelines Updated

Several New Changes to 2016 Guidelines



For those fishermen & women of FAC...

The statewide fish consumption advisory has been revised due to levels of mercury found in fish samples from Kentucky waters, the

Kentucky Departments for Public Health, Environmental Protection, and Fish and Wildlife Resources announced recently.

Fish consumption advisories are intended to advise the public of potential adverse health problems that may result from eating fish caught from a particular area. An advisory does not ban eating fish; it is a guide to help citizens reduce risk and make informed decisions about eating fish from Kentucky waters.



consume, particularly more sensitive populations such as infants, young children and pregnant women.”

Mercury occurs naturally and can also be released to the environment through many types of human activity. It can collect in streams and lakes where it is converted into methylmercury in the sediment. Once converted, methylmercury is absorbed by small organisms such as bacteria and plankton, which are then consumed by larger organisms progressing up the food chain to predatory fish such as largemouth bass, walleye and musky.

According to 2009 United States Environmental Protection Agency document “The National Study of Chemical Residues in Lake Fish Tissue”, mercury has been found in fish in all states including Kentucky. Kentucky’s average mercury concentration in fish tissue is similar to national levels.

“We want Kentuckians to be informed about any potential danger or ill effects that could result from the food they consume – and that includes fish caught locally in our rivers, streams and lakes,” said Kathy Fowler, director of the DPH Division of Public Health Safety. “Contaminants, like mercury, can be harmful to the brain and nervous system if a person is exposed to too much of them. We ask that Kentuckians be mindful of the kinds and amounts of fish they

Kentucky consumption advisories are developed based on the USEPA document “Guidance for Assessing Chemical Contaminant Data for Use in Fish Tissue Advisories” which outlines risk based consumption limits for methylmercury. Consumption advisories do not affect those who swim, ski or boat in Kentucky waters.

The new guidance below applies to specific groups of fish from all Kentucky waters:

Location	Species	General Population	Sensitive Population	Contaminant
Statewide	Predatory fish	1 meal per month	6 meals per year	Mercury
Statewide	Bottom feeder fish and Panfish	1 meal per week	1 meal per month	Mercury

More information at Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
<http://fw.ky.gov/Fish/Pages/Fish-Consumption-Advisories.aspx>



Nathan Hammond, a document processing specialist with Revenue, operating one of DOR’s scanning machines for processing tax returns

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degrees and credentials awarded, but by 2013-14, undergraduate certificates climbed to 31% of all postsecondary degrees and credentials awarded in Kentucky.

The second largest shift came in the share of baccalaureate degrees awarded. In 2004-05, baccalaureate degrees represented 41 percent of total awards, but fell to 33 percent of all awards by 2013-14.

Men earned fewer degrees and credentials than women but their attainment growth in the past five years outpaced that of women.

The number of degrees and credentials earned by Hispanic students increased 125 percent overall since 2004-05.

The report, including conclusions and recommendations, is available at <http://cpe.ky.gov/info/>.