“Safer, Stronger: The New Normal” webinar series introduced by KACCS

Noted author and lecturer Dr. Wallace Pond, Ph.D. and higher education attorney Yolanda Gallegos, Esq. lead the team of strong presenters featured in the new webinar series, “Safer, Stronger: The New Normal.” The webinars feature brand new material developed to support post-secondary colleges and schools navigate the challenges of CV19.

The free on-line workshops focus on legal, regulatory, and financial considerations for operating colleges and schools in an era of “face-to-face” prohibited. More significantly, the series tackles the substantial human issues confronting leaders, faculty members, managers, and students during a period of displacement from “normal.”

Access to the full program and a schedule of on-line workshops and registration information is available at www.kycareercolleges.org. Registration through Zoom is required to access the live, real-time lectures and discussions.

KACCS is excited to have the knowledge, expertise and confidence expressed by Dr. Pond and Ms. Gallegos to share with our members and the broader post-secondary community during these challenging times. KACCS cancelled its Spring Symposium because of the quarantine. Timely and relevant content shifted dramatically almost over-night, and the organization made a quick pivot to create new content and alternative delivery modes.

Webinars are available for free to registered participants now through the end of June.
2020 Kentucky Legislative Wrap-up

KACCS leadership met with Rep. Kevin Bratcher, center, and other members of the Kentucky legislature during ‘KACCS at the Capitol’ in late February. Other meetings were with Senators J. Raque Adams, Ralph Avarado, Julian Carroll, Morgan McGarvey, D. Harper Angel, Phillip Wheeler, Alice Forgy Kerr, Dennis Parrett, John Schickel, Max Wise and Mike Nemes; and Representatives Jason Nemes, George Brown, Derrick Graham, Mary Lou Marzian, Tom Burch, Kathy Hinkle, Russell Webber and Adam Koenig.

By Greg Brotzge, Impact Government Relations

The 2020 General Assembly concluded last Wednesday, April 15 about 90 minutes prior to the midnight deadline. Much like everything else this past month, the coronavirus dominated the session.

Outside of the budget, most of the legislation of note that passed had to do with combating the virus. This included SB 150 which gave the Governor clear statutory authority for the executive orders already issued, expanded the use of telehealth, and provided Good Samaritan protections for healthcare providers and others responding to the pandemic. It also gave the Board of Medical Licensure and the Board of Nursing the authority to waive statutes or regulations in order to respond to the crisis.

The budget that was passed is a one year budget that is based on the pessimistic projection of the Consensus Forecast Group last fall.

The budget also contains a budget reduction plan should revenues fall 5% or less between now and the 2021 session. Most experts believe that the pessimistic forecast is now optimistic and that the additional shortfall will be greater than 5% and will need to be addressed either in a special session or when the General Assembly reconvenes in January.

The final version of the budget does include an increase in the dual credit reimbursement rate from 1/3 the community college credit hour rate to 2/5 of the credit hour rate. It also included a slight increase in the CAP and KEES programs as well as a bump in the Work Ready scholarship program. HB 393 would have made the change in the dual credit rate permanent, but the bill died in the Senate. The dual credit rate will revert to 1/3 the Community College rate next June 30 unless the General Assembly takes further action.

Legislation tracked by KACCS for its members in 2020 include HB68, HB11, HB69, HB71, HB72, HB87, HB99, HB135, HB136, HB146, HB303, HB306, HB316, HB331, HB368, HB383, HB393, HB419, SB 90, SB101, SB120, SB129, SB156, SB157, SB177, SB193, SB 227, SB244, and SB270.

Impact Government Relations will provide a webinar on the 2020 sessions and key considerations going into 2021. Watch for details on the KACCS website!

Highlights of the ‘2020 Progress Report’ of the KY Council on Postsecondary Education

> College readiness scores continue to decline for Kentucky high school graduates, are below the national average and are very low among African Americans.

> College attendance rates continue to slide (55% in 2014 > 51.7% in 2018 compared to 2020 goal of 65%); enrollment fell from 46,063 in 2015 to 38,452 in 2018.

> To reach college participation goals, KY will need more than 70,000 adults enrolled in postsecondary education.

> KCTCS is showing slight increases in graduation rates (from 25% in 2012 to 34% in 2019), however, Underrepresented Minorities lag these results by substantial amounts.

> KCTCS retention rates have increased from 51% (2012) to 55% (2018). Minority and low-income student’s retention rates lag substantially.

> Approximately half (49.5%) of the students who enrolled in KCTCS in 2013 left without earning a credential, higher than the national average of 43.2%.

> Kentucky has increased its educational attainment rate (adults 25 – 64 with postsecondary certificate or degree) from 42.5% in 2014 to nearly 47% in 2018, a 4.5 percentage-point gain. Kentucky’s 60 by 30 Goal is for 60% of the same population to have attained postsecondary credential by 2030. Source: http://cpe.ky.gov/data/reports/2020progressreport.pdf