

NEWS RELEASE

West Kentucky Community and Technical College (WKCTC) is one of eight Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) colleges selected by the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program as the nation's 120 best community colleges - top 10 percent in the country.

"The Aspen Institute recognizes those colleges who have excelled in student completion rates and workforce success and have shown excellence in performance and dramatic transformation," said WKCTC President Barbara Veazey. "It's a prestigious national award and we are honored that West Kentucky Community and Technical College has been recognized."

Other KCTCS colleges were:

Ashland Community and Technical College,
Big Sandy Community and Technical College,
Hazard Community and Technical College,
Madisonville Community College,
Maysville Community and Technical College,
Somerset Community College and
Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College.

The KCTCS colleges were chosen from nearly 1,200 community colleges nationwide for demonstrating high standards for learning, college completion without delay and proving to be excellent training grounds for jobs that pay competitive wages. These areas of success make the colleges eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence.

The Aspen Prize was announced at the White House Community College Summit hosted by President Obama and Second Lady Dr. Jill Biden last October. This prize is in response to the President's recognition of the education and workforce imperatives facing the U.S. The Aspen Institute, the Joyce and Lumina Foundations, and the charitable foundations of Bank of America and JP Morgan Chase have partnered to launch the prize.

"The country is becoming increasingly aware of the importance of community

colleges in educating our way to a stronger America. I am inspired by all of today's community college students—the workers who have returned to school to improve their job prospects, the mothers who juggle jobs and childcare while preparing for new careers, and those who work diligently while at community college, preparing to transfer to a four-year institution,” said Dr. Biden.

KCTCS selected colleges are now eligible to submit applications containing detailed data on degree/certificate completion (including progress and transfer rates), labor market outcomes (employment and earnings) and student learning outcomes. They must demonstrate that they deliver exceptional student results, use data to drive decisions and continually improve over time.

Eight to ten finalists will be named in September. The Aspen Institute will conduct site visits to each of the finalists in the fall. Based on this evidence, the prize “jury” will select a grand prize winner and two-to-three runners-up, to be announced in December.

For a complete list of 120 eligible community colleges, visit AspenCCPrize.org.

West Kentucky Community & Technical College is a proud member of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System. Kentucky's statewide system of 16 colleges, 68 campuses and more than 106,000 students is a critical component to transforming the state's economy by providing citizens with the education and training needed for high growth, high wage careers. For more information about WKCTC, visit westkentucky.kctcs.edu.