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**Public meetings to focus on impact
of postsecondary education in Kentucky communities**

Hearing what business and civic leaders, educators, and other Kentuckians think about the influence and impact of postsecondary education at the community level will be the focus of a series of regional forums to be held throughout the state in August.

The forums are being sponsored by the Kentucky Chamber's Postsecondary Education Task Force, a group of business leaders who are reviewing the state's progress toward achieving its goals in postsecondary education. The study is being conducted during the tenth anniversary year of the 1997 reforms enacted by the legislature with the objective of moving Kentucky to the national average of educational attainment by 2020.

In addition to gathering data about changes in enrollment, degrees granted and related statistics, the task force is seeking Kentuckians' opinions about issues related to postsecondary education at the regional level.

Such issues range from affordability to economic growth and development to the impact of Kentucky's colleges and universities on local communities. Comments on those and other topics will be solicited during the forums.

"We encourage employers, educators, civic leaders, parents and students – all Kentuckians – to share their views with us about the way postsecondary education is working in their communities," said Dave Adkisson, president and CEO of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce. "Having those insights will strengthen the task force study and will help all of us better understand the impact of postsecondary education on people's lives and community vitality."

Kentuckians' comments from the meetings, along with other information developed by consultants who are assisting with the study, will be considered as the task force report and recommendations are finalized for presentation to Kentucky's Governor and the 2008 General Assembly. The task force will release its report at an education summit anticipated in early December.

Meetings will be held from 10 a.m. until noon, local time. Below is a list of the meeting dates and locations:

Bowling Green, August 13

Community Room, Bowling Green
Chamber of Commerce, 710 College St.

Paducah, August 14

CSI, Computer Services Inc.,
3901 Technology Dr.

Owensboro, August 15

City Hall, 101 E. 4th St.

Louisville, August 16

South Room, The Henry Clay, 3rd & Chestnut

Northern Kentucky, August 20

The METS Center, 3861 Olympic Blvd., Erlanger

Pikeville, August 21

East Kentucky Exposition Center,
126 Main St., Pikeville

Ashland, August 22

Kentucky Power Co. Service Center,
12333 Kevin Ave.

Somerset, August 23

Somerset Community College, 808 Monticello St.

Lexington, August 24

Marriott Griffin Gate, 1800 Newtown Pike

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