



Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

Steven L. Beshear
Governor

1024 Capital Center Drive, Suite 320
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
Phone: 502-573-1555
Fax: 502-573-1535
<http://www.cpe.ky.gov>

Robert L. King
President

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Contact Information: CPE Contact: Lee Nimocks
502-573-1555, ext. 244
Lee.Nimocks@ky.gov

Note to Editors: Photo captions are located at the bottom of this release

AT&T FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT TO INCREASE ACCESS TO QUALITY DIGITAL LEARNING TOOLS

The AT&T Foundation awarded Kentucky a \$136,171 grant to launch the Kentucky Learning Depot, an online search-like service where teachers and faculty can access free online learning content and resources from a statewide repository.

"Kentucky has become a national leader in online learning, allowing thousands of Kentuckians greater access to diverse educational content and degree completion through innovative means," said Governor Steve Beshear. "The creation of the Kentucky Learning Depot will ensure we are able to stay ahead of the curve and that Kentucky students are amply prepared for the current job market with 21st Century skills."

The Kentucky Learning Depot is a project of the Council on Postsecondary Education and the Kentucky Department of Education. The Kentucky Virtual Campus, a unit of the Council on Postsecondary Education, will lead the project.

"We are delighted that the AT&T Foundation will support our efforts to improve the quality of the student learning experience. By sharing and reusing expensive video and other content, the Depot can also reduce the cost of course materials," said Robert L. King, president of the Council on Postsecondary Education.

"These quality digital learning resources are critical to the development of 21st century skills for Kentucky students," added Elaine Farris, Interim Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education. "We need to bring rich, engaging content to the classrooms."

The repository will include existing digital content already in the KYVC, the Kentucky Virtual Library and the Kentucky Virtual Schools. Additional new content will also be contributed by Kentucky educators and harvested from other repositories across the world to exponentially increase the amount of resources available to all.

Kentucky was the only state selected in August 2007 for the OnCoRe Blueprint Project of the Florida Distance Learning Consortium, which is funded by the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). As a pilot state, Kentucky has used the blueprint and embarked on a year-long planning process to

create the statewide repository.

“We have been impressed with the collaborative approach in the planning for the Kentucky Learning Depot. We want to ensure that innovative initiatives such as this do not get delayed due to the budget constraint,” said Mary Pat Regan, President of AT&T Kentucky. “Even during these challenging economic times, AT&T is investing in America’s future, which means continuing to invest in our country’s 21st century infrastructure and investing in our workforce.”

Online teaching resources and learning objects provide multiple interactive ways to engage learners outside the traditional classroom lecture. These resources are helpful not only for online students, but also for students who are taking traditional classes and use course Web sites to access class assignments or participate in discussion boards. For examples of online learning resources, visit <http://kylearningdepot.org/> and log in as a guest.

The creation of the repository will complement Kentucky’s current collaborative efforts to increase seamlessness in the P-16 education system including the development of an education-centric Kentucky Education Network, the establishment of a statewide P-16 Council, and the procurement of a statewide license for Blackboard course management system.

For more information about the Kentucky Learning Depot, visit <http://kylearningdepot.org>

In attached check photo (#1): The AT&T Foundation's Nancy Jarett presents ceremonial check to launch Ky Learning Depot. Pictured from left to right: Council on Postsecondary Education President Robert L. King, Nancy Jarett, Allen Lind and Miko Pattie of Kentucky Virtual Campus, Jamie Spugnardi and Christine Powell, of the Kentucky Department of Education.

In attached close up photo (#2): Ky Learning Depot offers cost and time savings for Kentucky teachers. Pictured: Christine Powell, Kentucky Department of Education.

In attached double photo (#3): KYVC's Allen Lind and KDE's Christine Powell present the benefits of the Ky Learning Depot. Pictured: Allen Lind, Kentucky Virtual Campus and Christine Powell, Kentucky Department of Education.

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Kentucky’s postsecondary and adult education system is improving the economic vitality of the Commonwealth and the lives of Kentuckians. By raising educational attainment to the national average by 2020, Kentucky will attract higher wage and knowledge-based business and industry and the overall quality of life for Kentuckians will improve with higher incomes and levels of employment, better health, less obesity, more volunteerism, and lower crime and public assistance rates.

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