

TO: The Eastern Kentucky University Faculty Senate

FROM: Senator Michael T. Benson

DATE: October 1, 2018

RE: October Campus Report

An unmistakable positive vibe permeated the first Board of Regents meeting of the new academic year on Monday, September 24.

All the reports shared with the Board, whether about the demographics of our newest freshman class, our many diversity initiatives, budget implementation, the Board Innovation Fund or the various summer camps that bring many prospective students to our campus, give us great cause for optimism and excitement as we move forward after such a difficult and trying year.

And I am especially glad that the meeting was held in our new Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning in Crabbe Library, and that our Regents learned from Dr. Rusty Carpenter about the difference the center is already making in the work of our faculty and, ultimately, in the success of our students.

All those positive reports come on the heels of a month of several highlights for the University. To recap, here are just a few:

- We have made great strides in recent years in attracting more of the best and brightest students, with our last four freshman classes successively becoming the best prepared academically in Eastern history. Starting next fall, even more high school seniors will be eligible for a scholarship based on their high school academic performance. This expansion of our merit scholarship program also includes an incentive to reside on campus, which is in itself a major factor in student success.
- More and more prospective students consider a school's commitment to environmental sustainability when making their college choice. So I trust they will take note of the fact that the second phase of our new Science Building recently earned LEED Gold honors, testifying to the University's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. Also last month, we learned that Eastern ranks fourth nationally among colleges and universities in the water management category of the 2018 Sustainable Campus Index, published by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.
- Students also notice, appreciate and benefit from an institutional commitment to diversity. For the third consecutive year, ECU received the annual Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from Insight into Diversity magazine. ECU is the

only regional university in Kentucky to receive the award and will be featured along with 95 other recipients nationally in the November 2018 issue of the magazine.

- Our acclaimed aviation program is certainly no stranger to national attention, and it received some terrific exposure on the national stage again on Sept. 13. That is when Program Coordinator Dennis Sinnett participated alongside high-ranking airline executives on a panel at the Federal Aviation Administration's day-long Aviation Workforce Symposium in Washington, D.C., which addressed the severe shortage of pilots and airplane mechanics. EKU was one of only two public universities nationwide represented on panels at the event.
- It was announced in September that our online enrollment is up 13 percent over a year ago. This increase is attributed to new program offerings, increased interest in degree completion and sustained enrollment in foundational programs.
- Dr. Clint Pinion, assistant professor of environmental health science here, has been named president of the Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs.

I also want to call your attention to a couple of events this month.

One is a rather unusual exhibit in our Giles Gallery Oct. 1-25. EKU graduate Dr. Deborah Alexander has put together a collection of photographs that chronicle her long, distinguished career with the U.S. Department of State, circling the globe as a diplomat and field program manager, often helping to rebuild war-torn countries. If you remember nothing else about Dr. Alexander, it is important to take note that at the time this first-generation student was offered a study-abroad experience as a sophomore social work major here in 1974, she possessed neither a suitcase nor a camera. She had never even been on an airplane. On that study-abroad experience, she worked alongside Mother Teresa in India, and Dr. Alexander will tell you she has never been the same since. She said she considers this exhibit her "love letter" to EKU for the opportunities her alma mater afforded her. The opening reception is this Thursday, Oct. 4, from 5 to 7 p.m. in Giles Gallery. An exhibit by our own David Afsah-Mohallatee runs concurrently with the Alexander exhibit.

If it's October, it means that Homecoming is near, and this year's celebration features some new scheduling wrinkles. The Homecoming Parade will be held on Friday, Oct. 19, beginning at 6 p.m. and proceeding along its usual route. A town-and-gown tailgate will precede the parade at 5 p.m. The annual but newly named J.W. "Spider" Thurman Alumni Awards and Pioneer Brunch will be held on Saturday, Oct. 20, at 9:30 a.m. Then, that afternoon at 3, the Colonels will take on Murray State University at Roy Kidd Stadium. Additional information and a complete schedule of events are available online at www.homecoming.eku.edu.

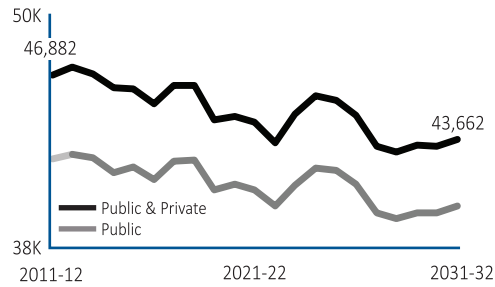
I'd like to call your attention, in case you haven't seen it, to a feature on our EKUSTories web portal about one of our custodians who became a standout student in our Department of Recreation and Parks Administration. In fact, Kenna Smith's first exposure to the program or even the very notion of a career in the field came while she was a custodian in the Begley Building, where the program is housed. Assisted by our employee tuition waiver, she began

attending classes there while still wearing her custodial uniform. Now *that* is the Essential Eastern: a place so welcoming and so nurturing, a place where faculty make academic programs so interesting and so exciting that those like Kenna who work so hard to keep our facilities in tip-top shape take notice, are inspired and energized to become students and then succeed beyond their wildest dreams.

Finally, we had a CPE meeting last week in Frankfort during which Moody's reported on the financial stability of both the State of Kentucky as well as on the individual colleges and universities. In the data that was shared with the CPE Board, it was noted the student composition of each campus and the percentage of students from Kentucky. As you know, ECU has the highest percentage of native Kentucky students. Attached is a WICHE report on the high school graduation trends in Kentucky projecting up through 2032.

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- 45,100 high school graduates, on average, projected per year between school years 2011-12 and 2031-32.
- The total number of graduates in Kentucky is not projected to increase after 2011-12, ending at 43,700 in 2031-32.



	School Year	GRAND TOTAL	PRIVATE SCHOOLS TOTAL	PUBLIC SCHOOLS TOTAL	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic				Available Data for Additional Race Categories	
					Alone, or Any Race	White	Black	American Indian/Alaska Native	Asian/Pacific Islander (combined)		
Reported Counts of High School Graduates	2000-01	40,611	3,654	36,957	232	33,421	2,995	40	269		
	2001-02	40,067	3,730	36,337	249	32,556	3,151	31	350		
	2002-03	41,460	3,806	37,654	385	33,772	3,124	45	328		
	2003-04	41,559	3,772	37,787	586	33,385	3,387	50	347		
	2004-05	42,117	3,718	38,399	406	33,984	3,527	60	409		
	2005-06	42,090	3,641	38,449	469	33,095	3,505	56	389		
	2006-07	43,127	4,028	39,099	491	33,566	3,687	51	405		
	2007-08	43,613	4,274	39,339	585	34,185	3,769	53	390		
	2008-09	45,788	3,937	41,851	710	36,044	4,213	44	417		
	2009-10	46,722	4,058	42,664	835	36,672	4,573	51	533		
	2010-11	47,158	4,127	43,031	966	36,952	4,574	48	490	17	302
Projections of High School Graduates	2011-12	46,882	4,240	42,642	1,053	36,412	4,554	51	571	27	403
	2012-13	47,290	4,402	42,888	1,236	36,311	4,637	120	584	27	510
	2013-14	46,929	4,237	42,692	1,295	36,428	4,331	77	631		
	2014-15	46,251	4,295	41,956	1,506	35,532	4,382	70	661		
	2015-16	46,223	3,978	42,245	1,649	35,556	4,582	76	668		
	2016-17	45,461	3,869	41,592	1,819	34,922	4,460	64	710		
	2017-18	46,388	3,877	42,512	2,063	35,353	4,734	93	827		
	2018-19	46,380	3,795	42,585	2,486	35,170	4,732	66	920		
	2019-20	44,613	3,516	41,097	2,719	33,698	4,744	64	850		
	2020-21	44,820	3,456	41,364	3,026	33,869	4,635	67	1,008		
	2021-22	44,497	3,408	41,089	3,202	33,693	4,507	62	1,080		
	2022-23	43,487	3,246	40,240	3,556	32,823	4,480	58	1,031		
	2023-24	44,897	3,598	41,298	4,332	33,289	4,719	58	1,084		
	2024-25	45,846	3,661	42,185	4,800	33,949	4,920	57	1,116		
	2025-26	45,623	3,568	42,054	4,429	33,753	5,035	50	1,141		
	2026-27	44,857	3,498	41,360	4,499	33,000	5,014	45	1,266		
	2027-28	43,292	3,382	39,910	4,317	31,875	4,801	65	1,222		
	2028-29	42,969	3,380	39,588	4,244	31,547	4,758	52	1,352		
	2029-30	43,313	3,404	39,909	4,164	31,931	4,648	45	1,457		
2030-31	43,306	3,394	39,912	4,091	31,914	4,789	42	1,340			
2031-32	43,662	3,421	40,241	4,278	31,960	4,910	51	1,486			

Notes: School Year refers to the K-12 calendar running fall to spring and may include graduates from any point in that school year, including the summer after the year end. The Grand Total is the sum of the Private Schools and Public Schools totals. The Private Schools Total includes schools not supported primarily by public funds, religious and nonsectarian, but not including homeschool students. Private Schools projections begin in school year 2011-12. The Public Schools Total will not exactly equal the sum of the races/ethnicities columns, which are projected separately. Prior to 2010-11, data were not available separately for Asian and Pacific Islander students, and Two or More Races students. Hawai'ian/Pacific Islander and Two or More Races counts are displayed separately in the years they were reported for informational purposes, but are included in the race categories in the projected years. For more detailed information, see Appendix C: Technical Information and Methodology at www.wiche.edu/knocking.

Source: Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, *Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School Graduates*, 2016.