



Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges & Universities
484 Chenault Road, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
V 502-695-5007 F 502-695-5057
www.aikcu.org

January 30, 2007

Honorable Jodie Richards
Speaker of the House
Kentucky State Capitol, Room 303
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Representative Richards:

The Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities supports the Council on Postsecondary Education's \$10 million funding request for the Information Technology and Equipment Purchase Pool, especially the \$4 million for the new library management system. The long-range cost-savings and learning opportunities that these projects will offer support our independent colleges and universities' efforts to keep costs low for students while providing top quality educational experiences.

We are particularly supportive of the Council's request for \$4 million to replace the existing statewide library management system. The current library management system, which was implemented in 1999, currently serves four independent colleges in addition to the public postsecondary institutions, the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, the Kentucky Historical Society, and several other libraries. The system tracks over 7 million volumes and processes about 54 million searches annually. The system provides the technological infrastructure for participating libraries, from cataloging to procurement to staffing.

The independent colleges currently participating choose to pay to participate in the consortium because it provides great benefits for the participating libraries. Housing the hardware and software in a central location provides a cost-effective means for libraries to share resources, keep costs low, and collaborate on service and support – allowing them to focus scarce resources on providing and improving services for users. One of our campuses was able to reduce their spending on server support and maintenance by 75 percent by joining the consortium. We anticipate that a major upgrade to the system would encourage even greater participation among the independent college sector.

Although our primary interest is in the library management system, we are also supportive of the other components of the CPE technology request. We hope that CPE's proposed postsecondary data warehouse, the KRMS, will ease the data reporting process for our campuses and provide researchers and decision makers on campus with new tools to access and analyze information about postsecondary education in Kentucky. Our member campuses have long participated in CPE's postsecondary data collection efforts and are committed to voluntarily participating in the Council's

Alice Lloyd College	Brescia University	Kentucky Christian University	Midway College	Thomas More College
Asbury College	Campbellsville University	Kentucky Wesleyan College	Pikeville College	Transylvania University
Bellarmino University	Centre College	Lindsey Wilson College	Saint Catharine College	Union College
Berea College	Georgetown College	Mid-Continent University	Spalding University	University of the Cumberlands

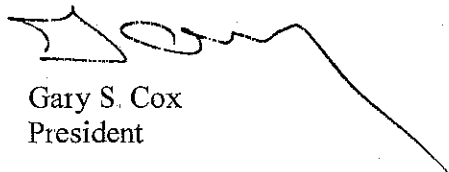
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accountability initiatives and efforts to reach the state's 2020 goals. The potential of the KRMS to simplify the data input and reporting process is important; many of our small campuses have limited staff and resources to commit to these processes. Furthermore, this will give our campuses a new set of tools to analyze and interpret that data as they make decisions. We also support the development

of a statewide digital learning object repository. Since our campuses produce about 25 percent of the new teachers entering public school classrooms each year, we are interested in equipping P-16 students, teachers, and faculty with the best digital learning opportunities available.

With the rise in distance learning and increasingly technologically savvy students, it is important that we provide students, researchers, and teachers with access to new library and learning tools that effectively engage them in research and scholarship. We support this CPE funding request because we believe that the entire postsecondary community must work together to keep education costs low and provide the end users – Kentucky's students and citizens – with the tools they need to be truly competitive in today's global, connected and digital world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary S. Cox". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Gary S. Cox
President

c: Representative Harry Moberly
Representative Frank Rasche

bcc: David Kaplan



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President of the Senate
Kentucky State Capitol, Room 204
Frankfort, KY 40601

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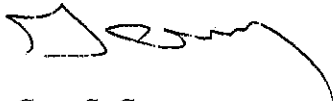
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Sincerely,



Gary S. Cox
President

c: Senator Charlie Borders
Senator Ken Winters

bcc: Becky Harilson
Jeff Busick