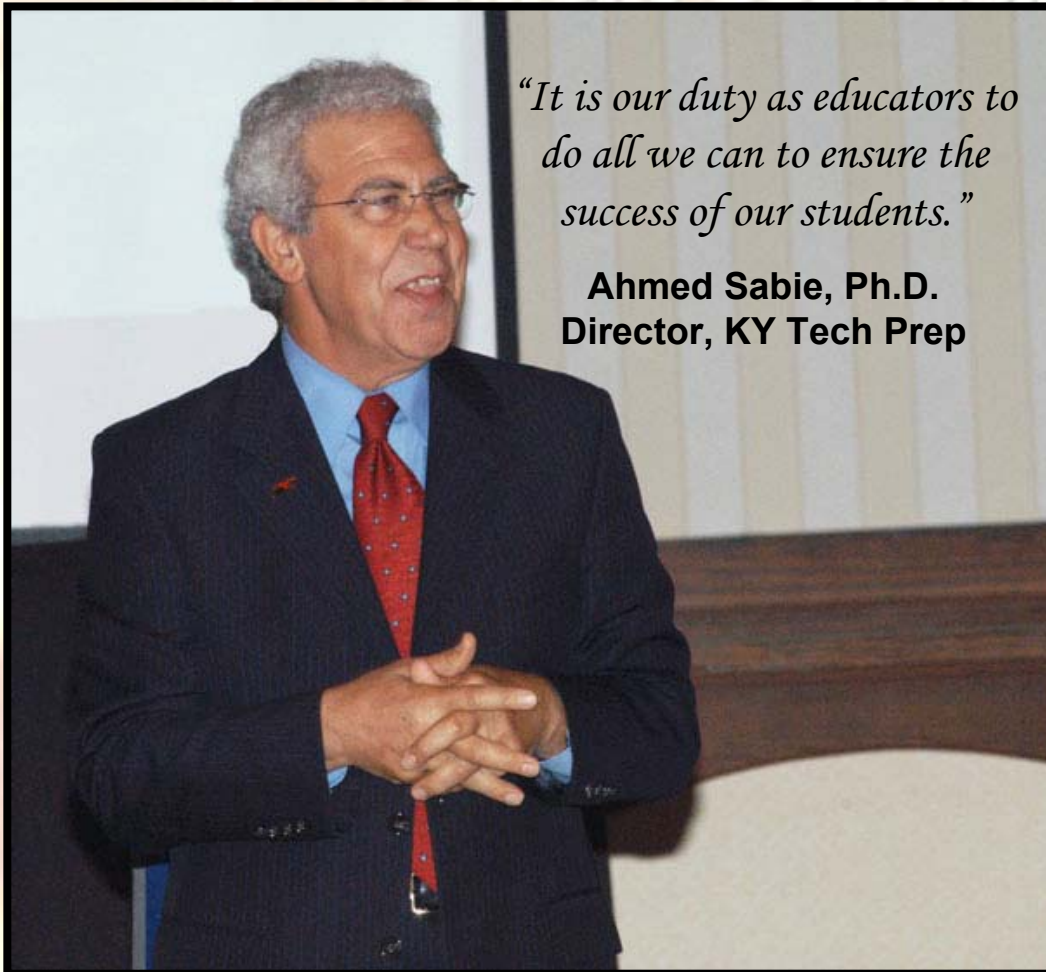


Kentucky Perspective on Career Pathways

Innovative Workshop Sets the Course for a New Path Through Technical Education



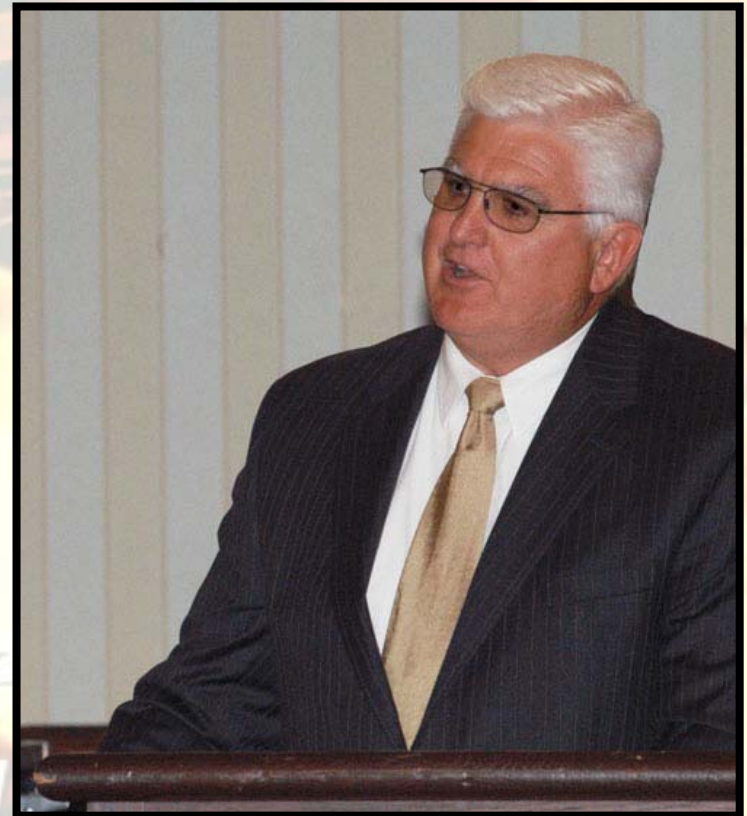
Kentucky recently hosted a Career Pathways Strategic Improvement Coalition (CPSIC) workshop in which secondary and postsecondary educators from institutions around the state had the opportunity to discuss issues and learn from a variety of topics relating directly to program improvement.

The two-day professional development meeting was designed to assist those educators in the process of starting the strategic improvement plan with the help of staff from the Center for Occupational Research

and Development (CORD) and the National Tech Prep Network (NTPN.) Throughout the workshop participants learned from sessions with discussions on topics such as the importance of coordinating high school graduation requirements with postsecondary placement requirements; coordination of specific educational programs with industry standards; ways to ensure seamless transitions between secondary and postsecondary programs; and proper preparation of graduates for the workplace.

Educators and staff addressed ways of helping students choose a career pathway through curriculum frameworks, professional development, improved partnerships between education and business and industry and in the area of dual credit and articulation, which has long been a major tool implemented in the Kentucky Tech Prep process.

The Tech Prep program, which was founded in 1990 under the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied




OCTE Deputy Executive Director Lewis Carter welcomes participants to the recent Ky. CPSIC workshop.

Technology Education Act provides planning and demonstration grants for consortia of local educational agencies and postsecondary education institutions that are designed to develop and operate four-year Tech Prep Education programs leading to an associate degree or certificate. It also provides strong system wide links among the schools, colleges, and employers and has been successful in leading students through a model plan that has ultimately lead to the workforce.

“Tech Prep has been a model program that has combined applied technology and academics for the advancement of those who have studied through the program,” said Ahmed Sabie, Kentucky’s Tech Prep director. “After 15 years, however it is time to expand the opportunities for secondary students to earn college credit through dual/concurrent enrollment and 4+2+2 articulation that will lead to a combined, sequential course of study without duplication. This articulation model is the foundation upon which the Career Pathways system is built.”

The workshop successfully demonstrated how the evolution of the



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**Dan Hull,
President and
Founder of CORD**

Tech Prep initiative into Career Pathways could effectively lead from a program suited for a specific group of students into one, which encompasses all students.

“Vocational education, as we have known it in the past doesn’t work today,” said Dan Hull, president and founder of CORD. “We need to connect secondary and postsecondary education in a better way through academic and technical education.”

Perhaps the most important aspect of the conference was the emphasis placed on data collection. Without the knowledge of how well the system works, it is destined to fail and in the world of education, failure is unacceptable. By focusing on academic performance, technical skills achievement, secondary to postsecondary transition and postsecondary completion, successful components of the system and areas that will need assistance will be accurately measured. Now, more than ever it is critical to see and record tangible results of the program in order to focus on improvement.

Kentucky has seen its share of successes through the existing Tech Prep program as evident during the KY Tech Prep Showcase held earlier this year.

Students and instructors from all areas of the state brought projects ranging from full-scale, operational airplanes to sailboats to the Frankfort Convention Center for an event to demonstrate not only some incredible

pieces of work, but the caliber of teaching and learning that is present in our educational systems today.

“In order to maintain that level of commitment, a consistent and continual level of dialogue between our educational institutions and business and industry partners must be present. The CPSIC workshop stressed this bond and offered suggestions on ways to foster the relationship through industry clusters, institutional program advisory committees, and K-16 program advisory committees,” said Dr. Sabie.

“As we continue to succeed through a blending of academic and applied learning, it is imperative that we create an environment of cooperation and understanding between various educational entities and workforce partners. It is our duty as educators to do all we can to ensure the success of our students. They are the common denominator in all of our plans, all of our endeavors and all that we do.”



[National Tech Prep Network](#) [Web Site](#)

Casey Co. ATC Principal David Horseman and Rockcastle Co. Public Schools' Jenny Sweet attended the workshop held June 2-3 in Louisville.