



# KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **TRANSFORMING CAREER EDUCATION THE FOCUS OF NEW SKILLS FOR YOUTH FORUM**

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Top education and business leaders and others will highlight business partnerships that focus on apprenticeships, work-based learning practices and best practices focused on employer-engagement at a Nov. 27 forum tied to Kentucky's participation in a national New Skills for Youth (NSFY) Initiative.

Kentucky is one of 10 states selected in January 2017 to receive a \$2 million grant to strengthen and expand career education pathways for students. The state grants, which are being distributed over three years, are part of the \$75 million, five-year New Skills for Youth Initiative developed by JPMorgan Chase, in collaboration with the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and Advance CTE. NSFY aims to strengthen career-focused education starting in high school and ending with postsecondary degrees and credentials aligned with high-skill jobs.

The New Skills for Youth 2017 Fall Forum will take place Monday, Nov. 27 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET at the Kentucky Community and Technical College System Office, 300 N. Main St., in Versailles.

Features speakers include Kentucky Commissioner of Education Stephen Pruitt, Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Deputy Secretary Brad Montell, JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s Vice President of Global Philanthropy Alex Derkson and Kentucky Center for Education and Workforce Statistics Executive Director Kate Akers. NSFY grant recipients and Career and Technical Education professionals and industry partners also will be participating in the event.

In addition to providing information on Kentucky's NSFY grant initiative, the forum will examine how:

- Employers can partner with schools and local agencies to use market demand in determining educational programming.
- Career pathways are currently being developed to provide seamless options for students in high-demand occupations
- Work-based learning opportunities are being incorporated into employer-school partnerships and transforming the talent pipeline.
- Regional Career Academies will align with regional education and workforce pipelines.

Kentucky received the New Skills for Youth Grant after a rigorous review process, which included an examination of the state's plan to transform how it designs and develops career preparedness education programs. The state will use the funds to incentivize school districts to create regional career academies that are aligned with high-demand careers, and that will involve collaboration among K-12, postsecondary education and employers. Round One recipients of the grants include Burgin Independent schools, Corbin Independent schools and Lee County schools.

(more)

Kentucky's long-term vision involves regional employers and educators creating rigorous pathways with seamless transitions from secondary settings to postsecondary programs that culminate in valuable industry certifications and credentials recognized by the state and regional workforce. This regional and unified approach is designed to transform secondary education in Kentucky.

Along with the Kentucky Department of Education, state partners in Kentucky's New Skills for Youth Initiative include the Council on Postsecondary Education, Education and Workforce Development Cabinet, Cabinet for Economic Development, Labor Cabinet, Chamber of Commerce, Kentucky Center for Education and Workforce Statistics and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System.

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