Search Committee Invites 5 Candidates for Visits

Open Forums Continue This Week for Campus Community

The EKU Presidential Search Committee has submitted the names of five candidates to the University’s Board of Regents.

The candidates will visit the EKU campus Aug. 16-24 to meet with groups of faculty, staff, students, alumni and community leaders and participate in two forums open to all members of the University community. The candidates, dates for campus visits and times for open campus-wide forums, are as follows:

- Dr. Jim Ferguson, vice president for administrative services, Auburn University, Auburn, Ala., Aug. 16-18, forums Friday, Aug. 17, 10-11:30 a.m. and 3:30-5 p.m.
- Prior, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Whitewater, Wisc., Aug. 19-21, forums Monday, Aug. 20, 10-11:30 a.m. and 3:30-5 p.m.
- Dr. Joanne K. Glasser, Esq., executive vice president for institutional advancement, Towson University, Towson, Md., Aug. 20-22, forums Tuesday, Aug. 21, 10-11:30 a.m. and 3:30-5 p.m.
- Dr. David Payne, vice president for academic affairs, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, Aug. 21-23, forums Wednesday, Aug. 22, 10-11:30 a.m. and 3:30-5 p.m.
- Dr. Janelle Ashley, vice president for academic affairs, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas, Aug. 22-24, forums Thursday, Aug. 23, 10-11:30 a.m. and 3:30-5 p.m.

Complete curriculum vitae and visit itineraries can be viewed at the Presidential Search Web site, www.psearch.eku.edu.

The 13-member committee reviewed applications and nominations and conducted neutral site interviews before selecting five candidates for campus interviews. The committee—composed of student, faculty, staff, alumni, community and Board of Regents representatives—is being assisted by A. T. Kearney Executive Search, Alexandria, Va.

Year-Long Chautauqua Series Spotlights Human Rights

Several noted authors, including a Pulitzer Prize-winning historian, will be among the speakers when EKU explores the subject of human rights from several perspectives during “Standing on Rights: Moral Ideals and Human Realities.”

The year-long Chautauqua lecture series, which begins Aug. 30, will include presentations by several EKU faculty and visitors like Jack Rakove, a Stanford University historian who won the 1997 Pulitzer in history; noted economist and author James K. Galbraith; University of Kentucky anthropology professor Thomas Dillehay, author of “The Settlement of the Americas: A New Prehistory,” and Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State and frequent TV talk show guest.

In addition to the 15 evening lectures, several other campus departments and programs are planning activities related to the human rights theme. Chautauqua Series organizer Dr. Bruce MacCaren encouraged others to consider such associated events and activities.

“A focus on human rights allows for a number of disciplinary perspectives,” MacCaren said. “There are a variety of human responses to the idea of rights, and we have lined up a diverse and intellectually exciting group of speakers.”

All the lectures are free and open to the public and will be held in Room 116 (the Black Room) of the Moore Building (except where noted below) at 7:30 p.m.

The 2001-02 Chautauqua Lecture Series is underwritten by a grant from the EKU Foundation. For more information, contact the Department of Earth Sciences at 622-1503 or bruce.macCaren@eku.edu.

The complete schedule follows (events and dates are subject to change):

Aug. 30, “Nonsense Upon Stilts;” Dr. Ron Messerich, EKU Department of Philosophy and Religion.


Sept. 19, “Debating Who Were the First Americans: Pundits, Politicians and Indigenous Rights;” Dr. Thomas Dillehay, professor and chair, Department of Anthropology, University of Kentucky.

Sept. 27, “Created Inequalities: Looking Beyond Trade and Technology at the Causes of Rising Inequality in the Age of Globalization;” James K. Galbraith, professor of public affairs and government, University of Texas, and author of two books.

Oct. 11, “Hate in the New Millennium;” Joe Roy, director of the hate crime monitoring project at the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Oct. 25, “The Other Side of Human Rights: Lessons from Humanity;” Laurence Thomas, professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Syracuse, and author of three books.

Nov. 8, “Sustaining Places: Community and Ecology in the Global Age;” Timothy Beatley, associate professor, Department of Urban and Environmental Planning, University of Virginia and author of several books.


Feb. 12, “Voice of the People: Singing the Struggle for Civil Rights;” Kathy Bullock, professor, Department of Music, Berea College, Walnut Hall, Keen Johnson Building.

Feb. 28, “Everyday Heroes: Citizens and Civil Rights;” Deborah Lewis, professor of political science at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County, author and civil rights activist in the ’60s and ’70s.

March 7, “Indigenous Land Rights: A Global Perspective;” Dr. Kelli Carmean, EKU Department of Anthropology, Sociology and Social Work; Robert Topmiller, EKU Department of History; and Dr. David Zurich, professor of Geography and Planning.


April 25, “The Changing Relationship between the Tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge;” Wes Jackson, executive director, The Land Institute, Salina, Kan.

New Student Days Fun – During New Student Days Aug. 12-18, new students met faculty members and learned their way around campus. They also enjoyed free food, movies and entertainment, including the bungee run, above, where incoming freshman David Baker of Bowling Green had the lead over his friend, Christy Simmons, also of Bowling Green.
Art majors. Eastern art faculty members have been asked to coordinate a student art exhibit to complement professional artists' exhibits. Art, is helping to coordinate a student art exhibit sponsored activities will be administered by Eastern Kentucky University does hereby reaffirm the university's commitment to providing equal educational opportunities to all qualified students regardless of economic, social status, and physical or mental ability. Any complaint arising by reason of alleged discrimination should be directed to the equal opportunity office of the university. Jones building room 408. Copies of cpd 37a, 819-628-8030. Or to the director of the office for civil rights, u.s. department of education, washington, d.c. the board of regents has adopted and supports an affirmative action plan. Copies of the plan are available for review in the president's office, the equal opportunity office. The offices of all vice presidents, deans, department chair, directors, and in the office for human resources.

Announcements

Arts Gala at Elmwood Sept. 14
The Richmond Area Arts Council's 12th annual Arts Gala fund-raiser will be held Friday, Sept. 14 from 5:30 to 10 p.m. at the Elmwood estate on Lancaster Avenue.

The event will include a buffet from area restaurants, live music by City Lights from Nashville, house tours, book signings, children's activities, a silent auction and lawn games for the entire family.

Dr. Gil Smith, chair of EKU's Department of Art, is helping to coordinate a student art exhibit to complement professional artists' exhibits. Eastern art faculty members have been asked to participate by donating work to the auction, with proceeds used to establish a scholarship for EKU art majors.

Tickets are $50 each. For more information, call the Richmond Area Arts Council at 624-4242.

Candidate Forums Replayed
The Eku presidential candidate forums will be replayed on the campus cable system. The forums will be broadcast on the academic channel (2) and residence hall system channel (61) at 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. the weekday after they are held. For example, the forums for the first candidate on Friday, Aug. 17 will be replayed on Monday, Aug. 20. The remaining forums will air daily Tuesday through Friday.

Master Level Offered in MOUS
Community and Workforce Education is now offering the Master Level Microsoft Office User Specialist (MOUS) certification in Word, Excel, PowerPoint. This fall two new classes, Expert Level Word and Expert Level Excel, are being offered which meet the requirements for taking the Microsoft certification exams.

The MOUS certification is nationally recognized for desktop productivity across Microsoft Office applications. This certification can validate a participant's performance-based knowledge of MS-Office applications for corporations, academic institutions, training organizations, etc. EKU employees can use their faculty/staff scholarship for the MOUS certification classes. Call 622-1226 for more information or visit the MOUS Web site at www.mous.net.

New Title for Thompson
Dr. Aaron Thompson, who for the past year has served as the first director of Eku's Student Success Institute (SSI), has been named assistant vice president for academic affairs.

In addition to his new responsibilities, Thompson will continue to serve as executive director of SSI. “I am very pleased that Dr. Aaron Thompson has agreed to assume some special assignments in the Office of the Provost this year,” said Dr. Michael Marsden, provost and vice president for academic affairs. “Chief among them will be the planning and coordination of a revised summer school program that will better serve our students and substantially increase enrollment in our summer courses.”

Amoung Thompson’s other new responsibilities in Enrollment Management are:
- implementation of an enrollment resource center.
- implementation of an Academic Development Programs Office and coordination of University policies and procedures related to the decentralized areas of math, reading, and writing.
- supporting academic advising to serve all EKU students.
- advancement of the First Year Programs office, including orientation sessions and classes and New Student Days activities.
- coordination of Academic Testing, including administration of various tests and examinations.

“My new position excites me because it gives me more of an opportunity to represent our students and the people who are on the front line assisting those students,” said Thompson, a Clay County native who earned a bachelor’s degree in political science and sociology from Eku in 1978. “I am an academian from Eastern Kentucky – the region and the University – and I see this as an opportunity to promote that fact.”

Thompson went on to earn a master’s and doctoral degrees in sociology from the University of Kentucky. He taught at Eku 1991-93 and at the University of Missouri 1993-97 before returning to his alma mater in 1997 to serve as coordinator of academic success and retention in addition to teaching in the Department of Anthropology, Sociology, and Social Work.

Library’s eQuest Gets New Look
By Todd King
Library Systems Administrator

The Library’s online catalog, “eQuest,” was updated over the summer to provide a new look and greater functionality. The changes were made as part of an upgrade of the Library’s system software.

The Web address equest.eku.edu takes you to an introductory page that helps you begin looking for library materials. This page offers an easy start from the new user to the experienced user. If you already know the author, title or journal title of the item for which you’re looking, you can perform a “Quick Search” from this page. For more searching power, three types of searches are at your service: Basic, Guided Keyword, and Course Reserves.

To search by title, author, subject, or keyword, the Basic Search will be used most often when you are looking for library materials. There are three steps here: 1) your search statement where you type what you are looking for; 2) the search type which can be title, author, and more; and 3) the optional Quick Limit, a new feature, where you can specify your search to a location of the library, such as Learning Resources.

Check-Cashing Policy Changes
All University employees and students now must present a photo ID for campus check-cashing privileges.

Personal checks should be made payable to self and signed on the back. Any student or employee with a past-due account or three or more returned checks will lose their check-cashing privileges.

Announcements

August 20, 2001
EKUpdate is published every other Monday during the academic year by the Office of University Advancement. Comments or questions should be directed to:

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To Submit Items for Next Issue: Send items to the above location, fax or e-mail address by Aug. 23.

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Summer Commencement 2001

‘A Nation Not Busy Being Born Is A Nation Busy Dying’

Excerpts from Summer 2001 Commencement Address
By Dr. J. Robert Miller

I want to talk about us. We all have something in common. Something we share. It’s an idea and a place. America. And because this place of vast tolerant space does not demand of us that we choose from just one or a few ways to live happily and successfully but allows many, I would not, could not generalize on individual happiness and success. For if I did, I would merely be celebrating my own values and cherished beliefs right in your face. And if I went on earnestly and with great passion to urge them on you, I would be just one step away from that bigotry which easily turns into intolerance and demands that you believe like me and act like me.

In one of Bob Dylan’s songs he gave us a memorable line that goes, “He not being born is busy dying.” You can take that line with good effect to your own individual life. But I want to apply it to what we hold in common. For I believe it is just as true of a nation as it is of an individual. A nation not busy being born is a nation busy dying.

Conventions and campaigns are fashionable these days in Kentucky. Here two commandments guide me. Thou shalt not take America for granted. And thou shalt not go looking in the past for the better nation that we must continually strive to become. To take our country for granted means that one believes it is as good as it is going to get. America is a finished building – all the doors, windows, corridors, and rooms are in place. We can only enter it and live our lives in it as best we can. That view is of a nation busy dying.

There are people living today who believe that America was at its best at some time in the past – always a fictional past, cleansed of all social inequalities and romanticized by selective memory. A well-known journalist and TV-commentator often in a bow-tie has recently and sincerely declared that America was at its best in the year 1900. I remind you that in 1900 working conditions in factories and mines were deplorable. Wages were so low that children went to work in terrible conditions, and 14-hour days were common. Women could not vote, and black men for the most part were either too poor to afford the poll tax or were afraid to appear at polling places. In 1900 lynchings were still fashionable in some states. And aggressive industrialists viewed what we now call the environment as just dumb natural resources to be plundered. . . . I think that the loud, strident voices calling for America to turn back to some fictional idealized past are actually wishing for themselves a miserable future. . . . An America not busy being born is an America busy dying.

I want to ask you three questions about us. Your answers will affect everything you do for the rest of your life in America with us.

1. When you graduate today, are you willing tomorrow to play a role in . . . An America still being born politically?

The American eagle on a quarter is perched. It ought to be on a dime, I think. It is time to have a national income rather than a national income tax. But more important, the eagle ought to be perched on a half-dollar, a dollar bill, and then a twenty-dollar bill. A country for granted means that one believes it is as good as it is. But it is frighteningly weird that we have not done it already.

2. After you celebrate this evening, will you commit yourself to good old American tolerance of . . . A country still being born morally?

We are terribly confused about morality and its effect on the national good in this country. The basic confusion centers in the belief that if my family and religious background makes me feel guilty about something, then you ought to feel guilty, too, and suffer with me. My moral code should be everybody’s moral code. That’s why I want Congress to enact it into law.

Abortion, homosexuality, alcohol, gambling, money, entertainment – Our moral differences on these questions are enormous. I give you a simple liquid example. Some families, because they immigrated to this country from a certain country in the Mid-East, and because they belong to a certain religion, believe that it is morally wrong to drink wine. America is a great place to practice that moral view. Abstinence is not against the law. Other families come from different traditions, and they accept beverage wine as part of the goodness of life. America is also a great place to practice that moral view. Drinking wine is not against the law.

3. Now that many parents’ prayers have been answered and you are graduating, will you give prayerful consideration to . . . A nation still being born religiously?

I think the most misunderstood freedom guaranteed to us in America today is the freedom of religion. Many people in the majority religion, Christianity, find it very hard to believe, of course, to think that the United States of America, inflicts its citizens with one of the most backward voting systems imaginable. For national elections, we get one Tuesday in November. Tuesday is a workday for most people. . . . Get off work, dash to the polling place, and stand in a long line. Who’s cooking dinner, who’s taking care of the children? The polls close at six. Forget it. Too much trouble. Drive on. No wonder 60% of eligible voters is a good turnout. That’s still a D-minus and you wouldn’t be sitting here today with that kind of grade-average.

Most Americans lived on farms when Congress set the first Tuesday in November as the date for national elections. By then the crops were laid by and a leisurely trip by horse and buggy to the polling place was something of a social event for the men. Women couldn’t vote, they stayed home with the children, so there was no disruption of the family. Now really, has anything changed?

The Carter-Ford Commission made a report on election reform two days ago that included the proposal that national election day be made a national holiday. Before I heard their proposal, I had already written mine. We ought to have two days of the first weekend in November for national elections. Saturday and Sunday. Saturday is the Jewish Sabbath. Sunday is the Christian day of worship. If you are Jewish, vote on Sunday. If you are Christian, vote on Saturday. If you are another religion or none, you have no problem. Christians go in droves to Wal-Mart on Sundays. And which is more of a sacred trust, voting or buying tee shirts on sale? If 85% of eligible voters went to the polls, as is the case in other nations, we would send some very different people to Washington.

Is it money and power? Is it unbridled religious enthusiasm? Is it ignorance, of course, of which I am guilty. In the last few years we have even witnessed religious terrorism in America – explosives and guns as instruments of righteousness. This kind of fanaticism begins innocently enough as mere difference in religious belief from your neighbor. If there is nothing to make a civil virtue of toleration, then, as the basic idea of America should, then it is an easy step to a religious bigotry that wants to deny other religions their rights, and may end up justifying violent means in the advancement of the religion. It is an admirable thing for you to be willing to die for your beliefs, but quite another for you to be willing for other people to die for your beliefs.

Practice the gracious act of not blessing other people with your religion if they don’t want to be blessed. We need to remind ourselves, and start teaching the young, that there is a way for me to believe fervently without abusing the rights of other people. A nation is religious in the sense that it is tolerant these days, in which we extend to all religions equal opportunities to live in harmony with our religious differences. The only competition that proves the worth of a religious belief is for that belief not to have any advantage outside of itself.

Imaginative Moses, Buddha, Jesus, and Muhammad planning for a talk together some day. Not up there but down here. Representatives will follow us with them. They are trying to decide where to hold their meeting. Could you say in the depths of your religious heart, “Please come to America. All of you would be most welcome here”? . . . This nation of ours not busy being born in religious tolerance is a failed and dying experiment in religious freedom. I hear that in Kentucky “Education Pays.” . . . The eagle just took off. . . . You graduate today with every reason to want to be part of an America still being born politically, morally, and religiously – your own personal happiness and success.

Editor’s Note: Dr. Miller retired this year as chair of EKU’s Department of Philosophy and Religion.
Name: Douglas Robertson

Education:
I have a bachelor’s degree in geography from the University of Oregon, 1973; master’s in cultural geography from Syracuse, 1975, and Ph.D., cultural geography, Syracuse, 1978.

Current Position at EKU:
Professor and Director of the Teaching and Learning Center. This is the third university at which I have held the rank of full professor, and I hold a joint appointment as professor of geography and educational leadership.

Job Description:
There are really three parts to the job, all three of which are very important. One is to administer the Center, which involves all those administrative things – supervising staff, hiring people, making sure things happen that should, going to meetings you should and all that. Second would be helping establish the strategic initiatives and directions for the university with regard to instructional development and faculty development – helping the faculty remain vital and growing throughout their careers. And the third – the real “meat and potatoes” of the job – would be to provide services for the center – to put on workshops, to do consulting for faculty and groups that have to do with instructional development, becoming better as a teacher or faculty development issues.

If there is one thing you would want people to know about the TLC, what would it be?
We want to serve faculty, but we also want to be a way for faculty to serve each other. I want for faculty to consume services from us, but also we want to be a facilitator of helping to put to on events where faculty show each other things that they are doing. There are two separate activities that the center does – one is center-generated where we put on activities like workshops and speeches and events and the other is client-generated. The “client” can be anyone from an individual faculty member to an interest group to a department to a college, where they come to us and request a certain kind of learning event.

What can faculty do to help ensure the success of the TLC?
The obvious thing is to attend activities. But we’re here for them and they’re busy so I’ll be thinking of ways to help them without taking too much of their time. By not being shy about letting me know how I can help them – communicating with the TLC. That would be the biggest help.

What did you do before coming to EKU?
I was director of the University Teaching and Learning Center at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas for two years. Before that I was Professor of Educational Leadership at the Graduate School of Education at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon for 10 years. Before that I was Director of Social Science and Human Studies at Marylhurst College in Portland for 12 years.

Family:
My wife Dr. Sue Reinmond, who was the Dean of the Honors College at UNLV. My extended family is in Oregon. I have a six-year-old daughter, Maura, who lives with her mother in Nevada.

What are your interests and hobbies?
Both Sue and I are very interested in staying fit so we give a lot of time over to exercise and fitness. And I love tournament tennis. I’m not any good at it, but every once in a while I stag a trophy and I really enjoy playing competitive tennis.

What is in your CD or tape player at home right now?
This will show my two sides. In my car is the new Steely Dan and the new Eric Clapton/B.B. King CD and the soundtrack from “O Brother, Where Art Thou?” One of my favorite traveling CDs is from the movie “The Commitments.” At home would be Natalie Cole singing with her father Nat King Cole and Ella Fitzgerald singing with Louis Armstrong. I like lots of different things.

What person do you admire most?
There’s hardly a day that goes by that I don’t bump into somebody that I just have a great feeling of appreciation and admiration for how they are conducting their lives, living with their particular challenges. I’m very interested in people – the way people change throughout the course of their whole life, not just in childhood. Teaching adults is essentially what my career is based on, so I have this natural interest in people’s life stories. Often when I am talking to people, I hear about incredible acts of courage, in everybody’s life, where they’ve done something really hard against great odds and I just admire that – the everyday person.

What’s the best advice you’ve ever received?
Don’t follow simple-minded advice. I used to teach a class where I found all this “common sense” advice and for every one, there is another that says the opposite. “Look before you leap,” but “He who hesitates is lost.” So whenever someone says, “Well, common sense will tell you…” I just tune them out.

If you could have dinner tonight with one historical figure from the 20th century, who would it be?
Gloria Steinem. She’s very bright and committed to social change and I think she bridges a lot of communities. Those people interest me – someone who’s very intellectual, but also fully capable of handling the popular culture and press.

New Program to Place EKU Faculty in Schools

The hills are alive with the sound of… EKU faculty.

EKU’s College of Education has established a Professional Education Fellows Program to serve public schools throughout the Commonwealth. In the first year of the program, up to 50 Eastern faculty members from varied academic disciplines will go into P-12 schools to work on special projects related to their area of expertise. The College will host an informational meeting Wednesday, Sept. 5 from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Faculty Dining Room in the Powell Building to explain and discuss the program.

“Creating the opportunity to create and communicate a climate of commitment and collaboration among our University community and the communities we serve,” said Dr. Mark Wasicsko, dean of EKU’s College of Education. “We want to displace the myth of isolation and promote the benefits of cooperation. We want to extend beyond the innovation of KERA and take the next quantum leap to shared responsibility for the improvement of education. We need to be partners together to prepare the highest quality teachers.”

Fellows for the program comes from the Commonwealth’s Action Agenda Trust Fund for regional institutions. “We are responding to the challenge of the Council on Postsecondary Education and the General Assembly to improve teacher preparation and teacher quality,” Wasicsko said. “We want to assist in areas where they have a need.”

Eastern and teacher preparation programs will benefit, Wasicsko said, from increased visibility throughout the Commonwealth. “If our faculty are out in the schools making a positive impact with teachers and students, we hope to communicate that EKU is a pretty good place. The experiences that our faculty bring back to the university classroom will be invaluable.”

EKU faculty who participate in the program will receive one course release per year, or overload compensation of $1,500 a year, for each year’s commitment; funding up to $1,000 for professional development for each year of service; reimbursement for all travel expenses; any supplies necessary to initiate the outreach program; and training in cutting-edge instructional and assessment strategies.

Among other requirements, participants must:
- be full-time and tenure-track faculty.
- commit to serving as a Fellow for up to three years with annual renewal.
- agree to spend no less than the equivalent of two weeks of full-time activity in a P-12 school setting for each year of PIE service.
- be trained as a Teacher Educator in the Kentucky Teacher Internship Program (KTIP) and serve on at least one committee for each year of PIE service.
- demonstrate innovative instructional and assessment practices for other EKU faculty through the EKU Center for Teaching and Learning.

Application procedures will be discussed at the Sept. 5 meeting, and lunch will be provided. Anyone planning to attend should call the College of Education at 622-2581.

Publications & Presentations

Procedures for Submissions
Two copies of publications and presentations by faculty and staff, including appropriate creative activities should be sent to University Archives, Library 126.

A citation for each item will be prepared by Archives staff for inclusion in EKUpdate.

One copy of the presentation or publication/creative activity will be placed in the University Archives and the other copy will be used for displays of faculty and staff work in the Library and outside the Provost’s Office. In cases where a faculty or staff member would experience considerable personal expense in providing two copies of their work, the Office of the Provost will provide reimbursement if requested in advance.

Papers also can be sent by e-mail to debbie.whalen@eku.edu. For more information, call 622-1792.

Melius Named Director Of Career Services

The new director of career services at EKU is a familiar face to the campus and business community.

Laura Melius, who joined the office as an administrative assistant in 1979 and served the past 16 years as assistant director and associate director, succeeds Art Harvey, who retired this summer.

“I’m passionate about this profession and about the impact we have on the lives of our students,” Melius said. “I am just as passionate about Eastern (from which Melius earned a bachelor’s degree in business education and a master’s in business administration), its mission and the region we serve. The rewards in helping our students develop both personally and professionally are limitless.

“I have had the privilege of working as part of a team that has built a Career Services office that does an outstanding job of meeting the needs of our many users,” Melius added. “We have a reputation among our colleagues for innovation and among our users for exceptional customer service. While continuing those traditions, we need to continually adapt and grow our services to meet the changing needs of our audiences.”

When Melius left EKU, she had held a variety of offices in local, state and regional associations. She has served as 2000-01 president of the Southeastern Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), a 10-state association composed of career services and professionals who recruit in the region. Melius also is a past president of the Kentucky College Placement Association and was named an Outstanding Member by the state group.