Glasser Presents Capital Requests to CPE

President Joanne Glasser presented EKU’s capital and special funding requests to the Council on Postsecondary Education Oct. 10.

“The EKU community is aware of the Commonwealth’s current financial situation,” said Glasser, who assumed the Eastern presidency Oct. 29. “We also know that this is a time of economic uncertainty for our nation.

“However, we take seriously our obligation to advise the CPE of our needs and the resulting impact on our campus if those needs continue to go unmet.”

Glasser to Speak at Nov. 8 Convocation

President Joanne Glasser has scheduled a University-wide convocation Thursday, Nov. 8, at 8 a.m. in Brock Auditorium.

“It is my desire to begin a conversation with the campus community about the future of our university,” Glasser said. “The decision to call this special meeting at this time was made after careful consideration of several options.

“EKU and Kentucky’s system of postsecondary education face unprecedented opportunities and challenges,” she continued. “There is much work to be done. Together, we can accomplish great things.”

The capital funding plan presented by Glasser addresses capital renewal, capital renovation, three “phase two” construction projects and major equipment to enhance information technology.

- $8 million for routine maintenance as identified in the University’s master plan.
- Historically, we have financed some, if not all, of these projects from the University’s fund balance. However, I must report to you that in doing so, the fund balance at EKU has been depleted. Future budgets prepared during my tenure as EKU’s president will include provisions to meet this ongoing need.
- $11.6 million for renovation project to support the Center for the Renewal of Schools and the Education Professions, “an educational incubator for refashioning a seamless system for recruiting, educating, retaining and renewing Kentucky’s educators. The project makes ‘innovative’ use of three existing facilities to serve 2,000 pre- and in-service education students, 750 P-12 students, 150 faculty and staff from across Kentucky, and a projected 2,000 additional educational practitioners.
- Three-phase-two projects: $26 million for the Business and Technology Center, $14 million for a University Activity Center to meet the fitness and wellness needs of students and $10 million for the continued development of the Southeast Kentucky Postsecondary Education Center in Corbin.

Glasser also presented three “critical” special funding requests, including:
- Retention of the full $755,000 from the Enrollment and Retention Trust Fund. “With the trust funds you have so generously provided to us in the past,” Glasser said, “we have enhanced recruiting efforts in Kentucky, with attention to quality, diversity and access. We also have increased our retention rates, directing funds toward tutoring, mentoring and other programs that help ensure student success. We have stopped the downward enrollment trend of recent years (and) all of us are committed to meeting the exceeding future enrollment and retention goals. However, we need your help to do so.”
- $1 million to focus attention on lower-paid staff members who provide essential services to the campus. “A recent study indicated that overall staff salaries at EKU are considerably below market levels. In the past two years, we have worked to address this issue to the extent our resources have allowed. But there remains a significant unmet need. The inability to compensate staff and faculty at market levels has increased turnover and will continue to cause difficulty in attracting and retaining the very best quality employee.”
- Almost $600,000 to fund the instructional activities of the Interpreter Training Program at EKU, the only one of its kind in the Commonwealth, and the cooperative program at the University of Louisville. “Funding from the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation may be at risk. Therefore, funding is needed if we are to continue this program that addresses social and educational concerns of this special needs population in the Commonwealth.”

Leadership Program Enhances Education

Whatever the career field, one highly sought trait is proven leadership abilities.

A new leadership development program at EKU is designed to enhance students’ classroom education by preparing them for prominent roles in their career fields and communities. The Emerging Leaders Institute is based on Arthur Chickering’s Seven Vectors of Student Development, which include developing competence, managing emotions, developing autonomy, establishing identity, freeing interpersonal relationships, developing purpose and developing integrity.

This is part of an effort to provide the most holistic collegiate experience possible for EKU students,” said Brandee Petrey, director of special programs, research and development with the Office of Student Affairs. “Many students come to us this last semester and want to get involved in everything. We would like to see them start sooner to build their leadership skills.”

The Institute houses various leadership development opportunities. One is the Aspiring Leaders Lunch Series that began Oct. 10 and continues through Nov. 6. The brown bag events (see pg. 2) are open to all students.

Also, nationally-known author and motivational speaker Paul Loeb will discuss student engagement Thursday, Nov. 1 at 8 p.m. in the Kressner Room of the Powell Building. Loeb’s “Soul of a Citizen” “will well become the handbook for activism at the turn of the century,” wrote Amazon.com.

Loeb has lectured at over 200 colleges and universities and served as keynote speaker for numerous conferences.

Loeb’s lecture at EKU is open to all students, faculty and staff. A book signing will follow his talk.

Another Institute-sponsored leadership program is Project Achieve, an ongoing leadership/scholarship initiative where students are given the opportunity to make a positive impact on campus while earning a reward for their leadership abilities. The first Project Achieve group has worked toward improving campus facilities. The Office of Student Affairs is recruiting 10-20 students to comprise a new Project Achieve group, whose goal will be to develop a leadership camp for incoming freshmen in the summer of 2002.

Any student interested in Project Achieve should contact Petrey (Beckham Hall Room 100, telephone 622-2077).
Monday, Oct. 29
‘Super Student Syndrome’
Michelle Rice, EKU Counseling Center, noon, Jaguars Room, Powell Building, part of Aspiring Leaders Lunch Series.

Wednesday, Oct. 31
African Drumming
Performance and lecture, 1:30-2:45 p.m., Powell Building.

Thursday, Nov. 1
Author Leob Speaks
Paul Leob, author of “Soul of A Citizen: Living with Conviction in a Cynical Time,” 8 p.m., African Drumming

Wind Ensemble Concert
8 p.m., Brock auditorium.

Friday, Nov. 2
First Friday
All current and retired faculty and staff and friends invited to attend an informal potluck at Arlington Mule Barn, 6-10 p.m., meet President Joanne Glaser. A $1 donation will be sent to the Red Cross Relief Fund. The event is sponsored by the Faculty Club; board members are Jan Downing, Greg Engstrom, Cheryl Jackson, Betsy Kurzinger, Joel Roitman and Jack Rutherford.

Volleyball Team at Home
EKU vs. UT Martin, 7 p.m., McBrayer Arena.

Thursday, Nov. 1- Saturday, Nov. 3
First Weekend
Check out www.firstweekend.eku.edu for the schedule of events and details.

Mock Trial Tournament
Robert E. Sanders Mock Trial Intramural Tournament, hosted by EKU Mock Trial Program and Barriess Society, 10:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, most events in Powell Building. A significant portion of the funding for the tournament was contributed by Sanders, a trial attorney in Northern Kentucky and 2001 inductee into EKU’s Hall of Distinguished Alumni. Registered schools include Rhodes, Furman, Washington University, Belfarine, USC-Spartanburg and St. Vincent College.

Sunday, Nov. 3
Volleyball Matinee
EKU vs. Murray State, 2 p.m., McBrayer Arena.

Middle School Honors Banquet
Concert, 7:30 p.m., Brock Auditorium.

Monday, Nov. 5
Women in Sports
“Howary of Women in Sports and Competition in the Work Environment,” Dr. Mary Lloyd Ireland, president, Kentucky Sport Medicine Clinic and EKU team physician, 7:30 p.m., Kenner Room, Powell Building, part of Women’s Studies’ Women and Sports Series.

Tuesday, Nov. 6
‘Discover Your True Colors’
Brandee Petro, EKU Student Affairs, noon, Jaguars Room, Powell Building, part of Aspiring Leaders Lunch Series.

Wednesday, Nov. 7
Caribbean Steel Project
Steel Drum Combo performance and lecture, 1:30-2:15 p.m., Powell Building.

Jazz Ensemble Concert
8 p.m., Brock Auditorium.

Announcements

Conference Topic: Ky. Legislature
EKU’s Center for Kentucky History and Politics will present a day-long conference, “Kentucky’s Legislature: Dramatic Changes Over Two Decades,” Wednesday, Nov. 28 in the Perkins Building. The conference is free, except for lunch. Pre-registration is recommended. To register, or for more information, call Dr. Paul Blanchard at 622-7500. (Information on the conference will be published in the next EKUpdate.)

On-Line Curriculum Task Force Established
An On-Line Curriculum Task Force has been established to develop a long-term plan for on-line teaching of courses and degree programs at EKU that may or may not be delivered through Kentucky Virtual University. “The task force also will consider the integration of other distance technologies, such as KILTER, with web-based courses,” said Dr. Michael Marsden, provost and vice president for academic affairs. “The task force will include a projection of costs, personnel and hardware and will address the issue of the wireless campus in the plan.”

Dr. Douglas Robertson, director of the Teaching and Learning Center, will chair the committee. Other members are Clemma Alcorn, assistant professor, Department of Associate Degree Nursing; Rich Boyle, assistant director, Continuing Education; Judy Cahill, academic support manager, ITDS; Dr. Richard Clewett, professor, Department of English; Dr. Richard Ferrn, professor, Accounting, Finance and Information Systems; Steve Hyndman, technology coordinator, College of Education; Dr. Gary Potter, professor, Department of Criminal Justice and Police Studies; and Steve Stone, assistant University librarian.

The task force will submit a written report by March 1, 2002.

Tickets Go on Sale for Play
Tickets will go on sale Monday, Nov. 5 for EKU Theatre’s production of “The Basset Table” by March 1, 2002. (Information on the conference will be published in the next EKUpdate.)

CSF Meets on Wednesdays
The Christian Student Fellowship Meets Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the Wesley Foundation. For more information, call Pete or Chuck at 622-1451.

University Publications
The University Publications Committee reviews manuscripts and proposals for subvention by the University and is the campus community’s connection to the University Press of Kentucky.

Subvention involves the University paying some portion of the cost of publishing a book, which might be a scholarly work or a work of public interest. Often, subvention makes the difference in a publisher’s decision to publish a book.

Members of the University community who are now working on a book should contact one of these Committee members: Steven Dickey (chair), Helen Bennett, Bonnie Plummer, Steve Fardo, Amy Thieme and Tom Appleton.


Diversity Committee Discusses Goals
EKU’s newly-expanded Diversity Committee met Oct. 19 for a planning meeting to discuss its goals and prepare for an upcoming retreat. The 20-member committee will meet regularly, offering leadership and direction to assist in moving the University forward to achieve its diversity goals and priorities.

Dr. Michael Foster, associate professor of biology, and Marta Miranda, assistant professor of anthropology, sociology and social work, chair the Committee. Other members are Teresa Belluscio, Larry Collins, Richard Freed, Seth Gakpo, Gwendolyn Gray, Gladys Johnson, Jennifer Gakpo, Isabelle White and Larry Underwood.

The committee is working on a new mission statement which clearly defines EKU’s diversity goals and how the campus will achieve them. The committee also is working on the development of an assessment plan.

The committee will meet regularly and offer leadership and direction to assist in moving the University forward to achieve its diversity goals and priorities.
Leading Native American Musician Coming to EKU

Acclaimed Native American musician Robert Mirabal is coming to EKU.

In remarks to the Council on Postsecondary Education Committee on Equal Opportunities Oct. 15, then-Interim President Eugene Hughes and President Joanne Glasser reaffirmed the University’s commitment to equal opportunities and diversity.

Hughes told the Committee that with its “renewed emphasis on changing the environment for minority populations,” EKU has:

- developed a strategic plan for recruitment and retention of African American students;
- hired an associate director of admissions and an additional admissions counselor to oversee recruitment activities targeted to African American students and incorporated multicultural student services into the Enrollment Management office to provide for better coordination of recruitment and retention activities and enhance service to students;
- expanded the size and role of the University Diversity Committee;
- enhanced retention activities for African American students through programming conducted by the EKU Student Success Institute;
- hired a full-time Equal Opportunity Officer and full-time graduate dean, both of whom share the University’s commitment to diversity;
- developed and implemented clear guidelines for the professional recruitment of new faculty members.

Glasser said her selection as EKU president “underscores a renewed commitment to inclusiveness and opportunity by the Board of Regents and the University community.

“...and the University community.

“I bring to my job a special understanding of diversity, and my career has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to this important principle,” Glasser said. “In the areas of legal aid, Affirmative Action and gender equity, labor relations and university administration, I have worked with the disadvantaged, the underrepresented and the disenfranchised. These and other personal life experiences have helped me shape the philosophy that will guide my presidency: to foster an environment of diversity and inclusiveness. I intend to do just that.”

Glasser said the Eastern community “takes seriously our social and moral obligation to create an environment of diversity and inclusiveness, to remove vestiges of the past, to establish a climate of acceptance and understanding.

“...and the University community.

“But we will do more than ‘talk the talk,’” Glasser said. “We also will ‘walk the walk.’ We will provide access for all to higher education programs and higher education employment. We will set the tone for diversity and inclusiveness through our example. And we will work to open people’s hearts, as well as their minds.

“We also will be pro-active and aggressively reach out to African American students,” she continued. “We will encourage these students to visit and become familiar with our campus. We will help them see themselves as successful, future college students. And we will reach out to their parents to ensure that their sons and daughters are welcome to our campus and that we will do everything possible to help them succeed.”

Over the past four years, Mirabal and Rare Tribal Mob have toured the United States, performing for many children’s groups as well as large concert audiences. Mirabal, who grew up on the Pueblo reservation near Taos, N.M., is an accomplished player of the traditional wooden flute and a drummer and dancer in Native American style. As he grew up listening to radio, TV and other media, he devised ways of matching traditional Indian music and dance with contemporary popular and classical styles. Rare Tribal Mob includes electric guitars and electronic keyboard, but combines those instruments with Indian flute and classical violin and cellos. All the performers appear in Native American dress, and dance is a major element in the show.

For more information about Mirabal, visit www.mirabal.com. For more information about the concert, contact Dr. Neil Wright at 622-1478, or Jan Quigg at 622-1065 or 623-0676.

Brookfield Topic: College Teaching

Internationally acclaimed author Stephen Brookfield will discuss college teaching in a campus-wide faculty development event Friday, Nov. 2 in the Keen Johnson Ballroom.

Brookfield, who will be introduced by President Joanne Glasser, will speak from 9 to 10:30 a.m. His talk is sponsored by the University’s Teaching and Learning Center. Those planning to attend should contact TLC Secretary Gail Hackworth, 622-6517.

The Canadian Journal of University Continuing Education said Brookfield “will become to the field of education what Peter Drucker has become to management: a scholar who educates and influences practitioners in the field through incisive and challenging writing.”

Brookfield is Distinguished Professor at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis, Minn. He has taught in England, Canada, Australia and the United States and authored or edited nine books on adult learning, college teaching and critical thinking. Three of his books won the World Award for Literature in Adult Education, and he won the 1986 Imogene Oaks Award for Outstanding Research in Adult Education.

His books include “The Skillful Teacher,” “Discussion As A Way of Learning” and “ Becoming A Critically Reflective Teacher.”

Of the latter, Jack Mezirow, emeritus professor of adult education with the Teachers College of Columbia University, said Brookfield “has written by far the most compelling, informed, perceptive and sensible book available on how faculty in higher education may develop themselves as educators and foster transformative learning by their students through the use of critical reflection.

All EKU faculty who attend Brookfield’s address will be given a copy of “The Skillful Teacher.” Brookfield will be available after the talk at a reception and book signing in Walnut Hall.

“Come and meet President Glasser, honor your colleagues, hear an interesting talk, receive a valuable book, help to build EKU’s culture of teaching and enjoy some good food,” said Dr. Douglas Robertson, director of the Teaching and Learning Center. “If you can only attend part of the event because of your teaching schedule, please come anyway.”

As a finals, the winning student entrant in a letter to the Troops competition will read his or her letter from the field. The contest winner will receive a $100 check from the Reserve Officers Association and be entered into a national contest. For more information about the contest, call 622-1205.

EKL also will honor veterans during the week leading up to the Nov. 10 salute through pole banners, placards and specially designed “veteran pride” buttons for each veteran in the campus community to wear. Before the game, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., a tailgate party for alumni of EKU’s ROTC Program will be held in the Alumni-Coliseum Parking Lot. Half-price tickets ($4) are available for veterans and their families through EKU’s Army ROTC office, Room 524 of the Begley Building, telephone 622-1205.

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Publications & Presentations


Eastern Family Portrait

Name: Rhonda Wheeler

Current Position at EKU: Area Director of Tri-County Center at Corbin

Job Description: I work with departments to determine course offerings, manage our staff of 47, oversee our facility of 53 classrooms and represent EKU in the community.

How long have you been in this position? Four years.

What’s the most rewarding part of your job? Working with students and seeing the difference education makes in their lives.

What’s the most challenging part of your job? Trying to bring entire degrees to our center.

If you weren’t doing this job, what would you like to be doing? Teaching business classes at the college level.

When did you begin working at EKU? October, 1997.

What did you do before coming to EKU? Since I am married to a minister, I have lived in four states and had a variety of positions. I have been a federal/state grant administrator, a marketing representative, and Assistant Director of Continuing Education for Macon College (and paid by the University of Georgia).

Tell me about your family. My husband, Jim, is the minister at First Christian Church in London. We have three daughters – Christina Ruff (22), a senior at EKU; Heather (17), a senior at South Laurel High School, and Lara (11), a 6th grader at South Laurel Middle School.

What are your interests and hobbies? Reading, antiques, and cross-stitching.

What is your favorite food? Chocolate.

What is your favorite TV show? The West Wing.

What is your favorite CD or tape player at home right now? Vivaldi’s “Four Seasons.”

Do you have a guilty pleasure? “Vacations are far apart, therapy is expensive, so choose your bathtub wisely.”

What is your favorite vacation spot? The ocean – I love walking on the beach.

What is your favorite movie? The ocean – I love walking on the beach.

What is your favorite TV show? The West Wing.

What is your favorite food? Chocolate.

What is your favorite CD or tape player at home right now? Vivaldi’s “Four Seasons.”

Are You Pondering Career Change to Become Teacher?

So, you've always wanted to be a teacher but you've taken a different career path until now.

Thanks to new alternative routes to teacher certification, it's much easier today to change career directions and pursue that life-long dream.

In fact, because of acute shortages in some subject areas in Kentucky and nationwide, many school districts have a job waiting for you.

Want to learn more? Then plan to attend “Second Careers in Education Open House,” sponsored by EKU’s College of Education Thursday, Nov. 8. The informational event will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Perkins Building. Reservations should be made by contacting Kim Alexander at 622-8326.

University and Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) officials will discuss educational options, admission requirements, financial assistance and the required examinations. Also planned are breakout sessions related to various subject areas. The meeting will include refreshments and door prizes.

Fifteen students already are enrolled in EKU’s new Master of Arts in Teaching program, which features secondary (high school) and P-12 options. The 39-credit-hour program has drawn inquiries from attorneys, doctors, pharmacists and other professionals considering a career in teaching.

“We wanted to offer students an opportunity to get a master’s degree and teacher certification in one program,” said Dr. Rodney White, a professor in EKU’s Department of Curriculum and Instruction. “And we have structured the program so that they can complete it over the course of 15 months.” Some of the courses are offered on-line, at evenings or on weekends for the convenience of working professionals.

Teaching areas currently available include: art, biology, business and marketing, English, family and consumer sciences, health, mathematics, music, physical education, physical science, social science, Spanish and technology education. “The ideal,” said White, “is for a candidate’s bachelor’s degree to match one of those certifiable areas.”

One underlying premise of alternative teacher certification is that work experience is a viable substitute for a portion of a teacher’s classroom preparation. Teacher shortages in many areas of the country, triggered in part by many reaching retirement age, are forcing states to consider a broader approach to recruitment and preparation.

Alternative certification does not mean that schools will be getting less-qualified teachers. “Those who choose this route are held to the same standard as those students who come through the traditional route,” said Dr. Gloria Carr, director of educational student services.

As an added incentive, the College of Education recently announced that it will provide one tuition-free course (a $459 value) to the first 60 applicants taking their first course in any of the College’s graduate degree programs in the Spring 2002 semester.

For more information about alternative certification possibilities in EKU’s College of Education, contact Kim Alexander at 622-8326.