



GREATER LOUISVILLE EDUCATION COMMITMENT

PREAMBLE

More than ever before, success in the global economy of the 21st Century depends on education attainment for both individuals and communities. In order to attain its highest aspirations for its citizens and the region, Louisville must overcome historically low levels of education attainment and accelerate the pace of change to move its education profile into the top tier of American cities.

The **Goal** is to move the Louisville region into the top tier among its peer cities by raising education attainment so that by 2020 at least

- **40%** of working-age adults hold a **bachelor's degree (40,000 more)**
- and **10%** hold an **associate's degree (15,000 more)**.

To accomplish that transformation, all leaders from across the region must come together to raise and support the education and career aspirations of students and of the community. We must build a common and widespread understanding of the link between education and future success, engaging parents, families, educators, and mentors in supporting that message.

To provide every child with ample opportunities to succeed, we must address challenges that range from better student preparation to alignment of elementary, secondary, and postsecondary curricula and requirements, and from stronger student supports at all levels to accessible and affordable postsecondary education.

We must ensure equal opportunity to succeed for all individuals, resolving historic disparities based on race, ethnic origin, socio-economic status, and other factors that have an impact on college attainment, particularly in the African-American community. We must embrace diversity in all its forms as an important asset for economic vitality, a healthy democracy, and a vibrant community.

We must confront the barrier of cost at the postsecondary level ensuring that the real cost of education is affordable and the opportunities for support are optimized. In addition, we must tailor new incentives and supports to adults so that they can return to school and earn degrees.

Finally, we must undertake these challenges through a sustained effort that engages all sectors of the community in a common goal and plan of action.

EVENTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LEVELS HAVE CREATED A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY THAT MAKES THIS THE RIGHT MOMENT TO CONFRONT THESE CHALLENGES AND THE COMING DECADE THE RIGHT TIME TO RAISE EDUCATION ATTAINMENT IN OUR REGION.

COMMITMENTS

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

WE, A COLLABORATIVE OF BUSINESS, EDUCATION, CIVIC, AND COMMUNITY LEADERS, COMMIT TO THE FOLLOWING:

A **Vision** for a world-class, seamless and coordinated education system that provides ample opportunities for developing creativity and critical thinking, skilled workers, engaged citizens, and civic leaders.

A **Common Purpose** to galvanize education, business, faith, civic, and community leaders and organizations in support of a common agenda to increase education attainment, prosperity, and the quality of life.

A **Goal** to move Louisville into the top tier among its peer cities by raising education attainment so that by 2020 at least **40%** of working-age adults hold a bachelor's degree and **10%** an associate's degree.

Recognizing that achieving the Goal requires adding at least 40,000 more bachelor's degrees and 15,000 more associate's degrees, we commit to bring about the following Objectives:

- **Create and support a college-going culture.**
- **Use the business community's unique points of leverage to accelerate attainment.**
- **Prepare students for success in college, career, citizenship, and life.**
- **Make postsecondary education accessible and affordable.**
- **Increase educational persistence, performance and progress.**


We will undertake the following **Strategies** to initiate this effort with the full intention to expand the scope and scale of the effort as it unfolds:

1. Develop and deliver go-to-college themes and messages to promote positive attitudes toward education through practices such as the following:
 - Use survey results and data to identify the themes.
 - Develop messages for media campaigns.
 - Mobilize a network of personal advocates to support students to go to college.
 - Provide students with experiences to enhance college-going aspirations and understanding.
2. Create a community of education-oriented employers who will encourage education attainment through practices such as the following:
 - Support employees in returning to school.
 - Promote the value of education for all students.
 - Develop programs that expose students to the connection between education and workplace success (internships, job shadowing and worksite visits).

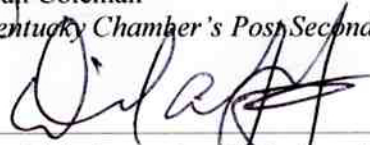
3. Align education systems to better enable students and adult learners to move successfully from one level to the next through practices such as the following:
 - Create a shared rubric for determining college readiness based on Common Core readiness standards and factors identified by colleges in the region.
 - Implement, evaluate and accelerate initiatives and interventions to improve college readiness.
 - Support the work of college and university faculty to enhance the quality of teaching of first year students.
4. Ensure that all individuals in the region can access and afford postsecondary education through practices such as the following:
 - Provide 10th through 12th graders and their families with effective, accurate information about affordability.
 - Establish scholarship funds to help more students go to college and earn degrees.
 - Leverage employers' ability to increase college access and affordability for their employees.
5. Provide retention and transition-planning and supports for students throughout their academic careers:
 - Expand the use of best practices for retention of students.
 - Expand the use of best practices on transferring among institutions.
 - Update and communicate articulation agreements.

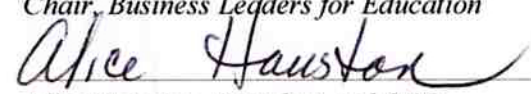
In undertaking this Joint Commitment, we will adhere to the following **Values and Principles of Collaboration**:

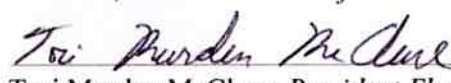
- **Commit to equity in education attainment.** To succeed, we will be intentional in removing barriers based on race, ethnic origin, gender, socio-economic status, and other factors.
- **Embrace diversity as a resource for learning in P-16 education.** We will support programs that foster equitably diverse schools, colleges, and universities.
- **Start Early.** Recognizing that school success begins with school readiness and that school readiness begins before birth, we will support student success from cradle to career.
- **Engage all sectors.** Rather than asking educators to bear sole responsibility, we will involve all sectors of the community and align our efforts around common goals of preparing 21st Century workers, entrepreneurs, leaders and citizens.
- **Leverage the power of collaboration through honest and mutually respectful communication.** We will work together to address issues and challenges, shape dynamic and sustainable partnerships, and develop systemic solutions.
- **Use data to guide action and investment.** We will use local data and effective practice research to guide our work, make evidence-based decisions to improve it, and continually measure and report our progress.
- **Design effective approaches.** Because this Joint Commitment requires working across sectors and institutional boundaries, it will require devising new approaches to forge partnerships, remove institutional barriers, and re-allocate resources.
- **Acknowledge and support programs that advance the goal.** Collaborating within a larger community of organizations and programs already focused on education, we will seek additional partners, promote related programs, and advocate for collective efforts.

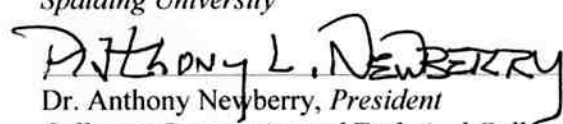

Mayor Jerry E. Abramson
Louisville, Kentucky

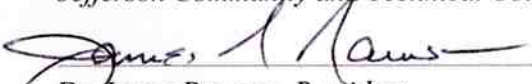

Joan Coleman
Kentucky Chamber's Post Secondary Task Force

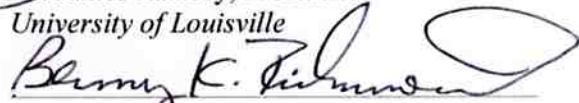

David A. Jones, Jr., Chairman of the Board
Humana Inc.
Chair, Business Leaders for Education

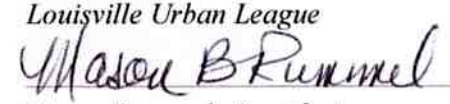

Alice Houston, President and CEO
Houston-Johnson Inc.
Co-chair, Business Leaders for Education

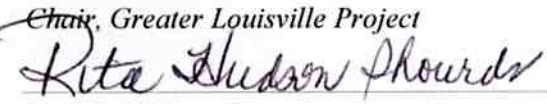

Tori Murden McClure, President Elect
Spalding University


Dr. Anthony Newberry, President
Jefferson Community and Technical College

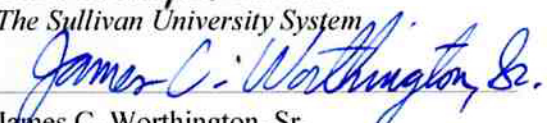

Dr. James Ramsey, President
University of Louisville



Benjamin K. Richmond, President and CEO
Louisville Urban League

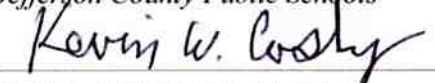

Mason Rummel, President
James Graham Brown Foundation
Chair, Greater Louisville Project

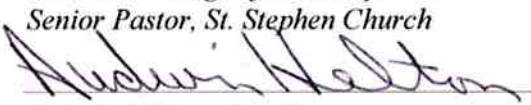

Dr. Rita Hudson Shourds, Chancellor
Ivy Tech (Indiana)

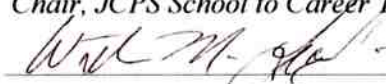

Dr. A. R. Sullivan, Chancellor
The Sullivan University System


James C. Worthington, Sr.
Worthington Law Firm, PLLC
Chair, KentuckianaWorks Board

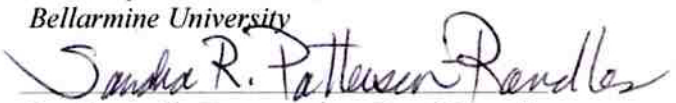

Dr. Sheldon H. Berman, Superintendent
Jefferson County Public Schools


Dr. Kevin W. Cosby, President
Simmons College of Kentucky
Senior Pastor, St. Stephen Church

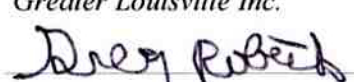

Audwin Helton, President
Spatial Data Integrations Inc.
Chair, JCPS School to Career Task Force

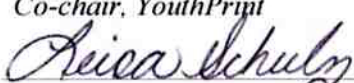

William M. Lear, Jr.
Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC
Co-chair, Business Leaders for Education

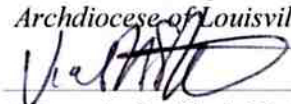

Dr. Joseph J. McGowan, President
Bellarmine University

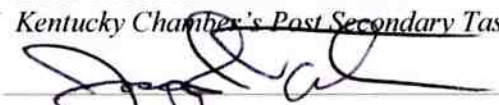

Dr. Sandra R. Patterson-Randles, Chancellor,
Indiana University Southeast


Joe Reagan, President and CEO
Greater Louisville Inc.


Greg Roberts, President and CEO
Muhammad Ali Center
Co-chair, YouthPrint


Leisa Schulz, Superintendent of Schools,
Archdiocese of Louisville


Victor A. Staffieri, Chairman, CEO and President,
E.ON U.S. LLC
Kentucky Chamber's Post Secondary Task Force


Joseph Tolan, President and CEO
Metro United Way