



## Closing Kentucky's Workforce Skills Gap

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Dr. Jay Box, Chancellor, KCTCS

# Accelerating Opportunity: For Whom?



Geovadi

Frankie



Steven

# Why Accelerating Opportunity?

## National Statistics:

- By 2018, over 60% of available jobs will require postsecondary education
- Over 26 million adults lack a high school degree
- 93 million lack the basic literacy skills necessary to succeed and advance in college and the workplace

## Kentucky Statistics:

- 54% of all jobs in Kentucky (1.1 million jobs) will require some postsecondary training beyond high school in 2018
- 71% of students entering KCTCS need remediation in one or more areas

# Disconnected Educational Pathways

**Traditional  
ABE/GED  
Programs**

Lack of alignment with  
career/technical  
credential programs  
postsecondary entrance  
requirements

**Developmental  
Education**

The “black hole” of  
developmental education:  
Low completion rates for  
underprepared students  
Remediation not  
customized to career  
pathway requirements

**Postsecondary  
Career  
Programs**

Programs lack supports  
and are ill-equipped to  
meet the needs of non-  
traditional students

**Multiple Loss Points**  
Low rates of program completion and credential attainment

# Streamlining Adult Education Pathways

**Accelerated and Integrated ABE and GED programs**

**Articulated Career Pathways**

**Stackable Credentials with Labor Market Value**

- Career exploration
- Contextualized learning
- Skill-building for postsecondary/career success
- College and career counseling

- Accelerated skill-building integrated with credit coursework
- Support through gate-keeper courses
- Intensive transition counseling

- Comprehensive supplemental services
- Intensive counseling
- Flexible program options
- Job placement

**More Adult Learners Succeeding in Accelerating Opportunity**

# Overview: National Vision

- The initiative is all about jobs, the economy and improving opportunity for adults
- It will help drive economic recovery by helping adults get the credentials and skills they need to get and succeed in family-sustaining jobs
- Reform how education is delivered to low skilled adults



# Accelerating Opportunity: Grant Overview

## Collaborative Funding Strategy:

- Managing Partner: Jobs For the Future
- Funders: Gate & Melinda Gates Foundation, Joyce Foundation, Kresge Foundation & Open Society Foundations
- Four year initiative (Oct 2010-Oct 2014)
- \$1.8M in grant funding
- 4 states will be testing integrated basic skills models

## Goals:

- Identify & remove barriers that prevent adults from entering & completing their education
- Allow adults to earn cumulative credentials that bear academic credit
- Work with business community to ensure students are getting the skills they need
- Evidence to showcase if integration works

# Streamlining Adult Education Pathways: Team Teaching



# Support Services: Success Coach



# Support Services: Career Coach



# Kentucky's Commitment

The *Accelerating Opportunity* initiative is engaging a number of state and local partnerships to ensure more workers have the skills they need for today's good jobs through innovative educational opportunities for adults that provides a valuable credential.

- Kentucky Cabinet for Education & Workforce Development\*
- Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
- Kentucky Community & Technical College System\*
- Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education/Kentucky Adult Education\*
- Kentucky Department of Workforce Investment
- Kentucky Workforce Investment Board
- Business and Industry Partners

# Kentucky's Implementation Sites

## Kentucky's Vision:

To implement a collaborative career pathways model that prepares students to be college and career ready.

### PHASE 1:

Bluegrass CTC

Gateway CTC

Jefferson CTC

Madisonville CC

Maysville CTC

Owensboro CTC

Southeast CTC

West Kentucky CTC

### PHASE 2:

Somerset CC

Ashland CTC

Elizabethtown CTC

Henderson CC

Big Sandy CTC

Bowling Green TC

Hazard CTC

Hopkinsville CC

# Industry Sectors: Year 1

| College      | Industry Sector A                             | Industry Sector B           | Industry Sector C      |
|--------------|---|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Bluegrass    | Office Systems Technology                     | Construction Technology     |                        |
| Gateway      | Automotive Technology                         | Allied Health/Nursing       | Manufacturing          |
| Jefferson    | Allied Health/Nursing                         | Automotive Technology       | Industrial Maintenance |
| Madisonville | Health Care                                   | Maintenance & Manufacturing |                        |
| Maysville    | Health Care                                   | Industrial Maintenance      |                        |
| Owensboro    | Advanced Manufacturing/ Skilled Trades Sector | Allied Health Sector        |                        |
| Southeast KY | Allied Health                                 | Industrial Maintenance      |                        |
| West KY      | Allied Health/Nursing                         | Industrial Maintenance      |                        |

## Implications for Kentucky

“As the economy improves, manufacturers are finding that it is increasingly difficult to find qualified workers. The Accelerating Opportunity initiative will help ensure more prospective employees have the skills manufacturers need for today’s good jobs through innovative adult education opportunities.”

-Greg Higdon, Kentucky Association of Manufacturers  
President & CEO

# Where Geovadi Will Be TOMORROW

Geovadi realized that although he's had a series of jobs, he was going nowhere without a High School degree. With his GED and Construction Technology Certificate, he hopes to get a secure, well paying job that will help him support his family.



# Where Frankie Will Be TOMORROW



“When I signed up for the Accelerating Opportunity KY program, I really liked that I could earn my GED credential while earning college credit at WKCTC. This is going to help me get a job much faster!”

-Frankie

# Where Steven Will Be TOMORROW

Steven wants to earn a certificate to give him a competitive edge when pursuing job promotions and/or career progression at Ohio Co School System . He believes a credential will give him a “leg up” when a competitive situation for career advancement does arise.



Questions?