

# WEST KENTUCKY COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE

# TIMELINE



## May 1, 2002

Dr. Michael McCall, president of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, named Dr. Barbara M. Veazey the first President/CEO of the West Kentucky Community and Technical College District.



## August 2002

The Challenger Learning Center at Paducah officially opened on the West Kentucky campus with June Scobee Rodgers, widow of Challenger Mission Commander Dick Scobee, pronouncing it “a star in the education universe.”

## January 2003

The West Kentucky District Board recommended the name “West Kentucky Community and Technical College” for the consolidated college.

## May 2003

Dr. Barbara Veazey was inaugurated as the first president of West Kentucky Community and Technical College during the last graduation of Paducah Community College and West Kentucky Technical College.

## December 2003

West Kentucky was granted regional accreditation on December 9, 2003 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on College (SACSCOC), officially completing the school’s consolidation.

## November 2004

Drs. Barbara Veazey and Tena Payne traveled to Southeast Asia University in Bangkok, Thailand, and the Nepal School of Nursing in Pokhara as part of an effort to establish an international exchange program.

## December 2004

All of West Kentucky’s 264 employees pledged donations to the West Kentucky “Fulfilling the Promise” fund-raising campaign, raising \$134,511 and making

West Kentucky the first of the KCTCS colleges to achieve 100 percent employee participation.

## March 2005

West Kentucky received a \$1.8 million Title III grant from the U.S. Department of Education to help ensure first-generation and economically disadvantaged students succeed in college.

## January 2006

The Mary Ellen Thompson Health Education Center opened in Elmwood Court. The center was named in memory of the founder of Superior Care home, a family owned and operated long term care facility in Paducah.

## June 28, 2006

Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher presented a ceremonial check for \$16.5 million to West Kentucky for the construction of the Emerging Technology Center.

## October 31, 2007

West Kentucky received ownership of the former Kitchens Inc. building, future home of the Paducah School of Art & Design’s 2D/Graphic Design Building.

## April 17, 2008

Officials from West Kentucky, the Lay Family Foundation, and Marshall County and McCracken County schools announced a partnership to open the Commonwealth Middle College (CMC) on the West Kentucky campus, allowing students to get dual college credit during their last two years of high school.

## July 31, 2008

A groundbreaking ceremony was held for the Emerging Technology Center.

## August 18, 2008

The Paducah School of Art and Design (PSAD) began offering classes in downtown Paducah at a temporary location at 409 Broadway.

## October 2008

The first “One Book, One Campus, One Community” read project, featured “Rocket Boys” by famed author Homer H. Hickam, Jr.

## October 14, 2009

Skilled Craft Training Center in Hickory, KY opened, offering classes in HVAC, nursing assistant and computer literacy. The one-story 60,000 square-foot building was purchased with the support of a \$1.5 million donation from the Lay Family Foundation and \$500,000 provided through the cooperative efforts of the City of Mayfield, the Graves County Fiscal Court and the Graves Growth Alliance.

## January 2010

West Kentucky joined forces with the Rotary Club of Paducah to establish the Community Scholarship Program. This program provides a two-year tuition scholarship at West Kentucky to Paducah/McCracken County graduates who meet eligibility requirements. This program provides a two-year tuition scholarship at West Kentucky to Paducah/McCracken County graduates who meet eligibility requirements.

## March 2010

More than 350 people attend the dedication of the Emerging Technology Center and the Fred Paxton Engineering Research Center. The \$18.5 million center consists of state-of-the-art facilities, customized training for business and industry, and information technology and applied technology courses.

## August 2010

First Associate in Fine Arts degree in the Commonwealth of Kentucky offered through the Paducah School of Art. The first credential was awarded in May 2011.



### **November 2010**

Novelist and literacy advocate David Baldacci spoke to nearly 1,000 people at West Kentucky Community & Technical College as part of the “One Book, One Campus, One Community” read project.

### **April 2011**

West Kentucky selected by the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program as one of the nation’s 120 best community colleges - the top 10 percent in the country.

### **May 2011**

A groundbreaking was held for the Paducah Scholar House.

### **August 2011**

West Kentucky’s Culinary Arts program received accreditation by the American Culinary Federation Education Foundation’s Accreditation Commission. Only 213 culinary arts program across the nation and only four in Kentucky had received the accreditation at the time.

### **December 12, 2011**

West Kentucky is named one of the top 5 community colleges in the nation and received \$100,000.

### **April 23, 2012**

West Kentucky was one of five KCTCS colleges named in the top 10 % of community colleges in the nation in the first round of the 2013 Aspen Prize completion.

### **May 1, 2012**

Dr. Barbara Veazey’s 10th anniversary as the first President/CEO of the West Kentucky Community and Technical College.

### **September 5, 2012**

West Kentucky is named one of ten finalists for the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence for a second consecutive year.

### **March 19, 2013**

For second consecutive year, West Kentucky was named as one of the top 10 best community colleges in the nation.

### **July, 2013**

The College’s West Kentucky College Academy was one of 27 schools awarded accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) during an annual conference in Salt Lake City.

### **July 12, 2013**

The Scholar House of Paducah, an initiative that provides housing for non-traditional college students, celebrated its first anniversary. The 48-apartment housing complex, at 1035 Old N. Friendship Road, is home to about 50 college students, most of whom are enrolled at West Kentucky.

### **August 12, 2013**

During the college’s 2013 fall in-service, Dr. Barbara M. Veazey receives a standing ovation from faculty and staff, and a service award recognizing her 40 years of service with the college.

### **October 2013**

The Paducah Junior College Inc., board kicked off the Paducah School of Art & Design campaign to raise \$10 million with \$2.5 million matched from the local community.

### **January 31, 2014**

West Kentucky Community & Technical College and Paducah’s Murray State University campus were honored as co-Businesses of the Year for creating a virtual education corridor, where members of the community can be trained and take home degrees without traveling to do so.

### **February 15, 2014**

West Kentucky recognized the 45th anniversary of the college’s 1969 National Junior College Athletic Association Men’s Basketball Tournament National Championship.

### **February 28, 2014**

The College was named one of 12 institutions in the Achieving the Dream National Reform Network. The Network is helping West Kentucky identify and implement strategies for closing achievement gaps and increasing student retention, persistence and completion rates.

### **March 25, 2014**

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reaffirmed West Kentucky Community & Technical College’s accreditation with no recommendations, a distinction achieved by 25 percent of the colleges and universities that underwent fifth-year review in 2012-2013.

### **April 8, 2014**

Paducah Bank announced a \$150,000 pledge to a fundraising campaign to complete West Kentucky’s Paducah School of Art & Design’s campus project.

### **May 2014**

West Kentucky is one of 11 colleges - the only one in Kentucky - to earn accreditation from the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP). The organization ensures that college courses offered in high schools are equally rigorous as those available at the sponsoring post-secondary institution.

### **May 23, 2014**

Murray State University and West Kentucky Community & Technical College signed an agreement allowing students to earn a bachelor’s degree in logistics and supply chain management from MSU without leaving Paducah.

### **June 4, 2014**

West Kentucky President Barbara Veazey was one of four community college presidents to participate in a 13-member panel in Washington D.C. to discuss issues relevant to preparing a skilled work force.

### **August 15, 2014**

West Kentucky hits the \$2.5 million mark in its fundraising campaign for the art school thanks to a \$400,000 from the Carson-Myre Charitable Foundation.

### **September 4, 2014**

West Kentucky named one of ten finalists for the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation’s preeminent recognition of high achievement and performance in America’s community colleges.

