

WEST KENTUCKY COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE

TIMELINE



2002

Dr. Barbara McWaters Veazey becomes the first woman president of Paducah Community College and CEO of the West Kentucky Community and Technical College District on **May 1, 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.”

2003

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

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

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.

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.

In December, 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.

2005

On **January 19, 2005**, educators, students and community leaders marked the fifth year of graduates from the University of Kentucky College of Engineering at Paducah.

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 in **March 2005**.

2006

The Mary Ellen Thompson Health Education Center opened in Elmwood Court. In **January 2006**, the center was named in memory of the founder of Superior Care home, a family owned and operated long term care facility in Paducah.

Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher presented a ceremonial check for \$16.5 million to West Kentucky for the construction of the Emerging Technology Center on **June 28, 2006**.

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 on October 31, 2007.

2008

On 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.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held for the Emerging Technology Center on **July 31, 2008**

The Paducah School of Art and Design (PSAD) began offering classes on **August 18, 2008** in downtown Paducah at a temporary location at 409 Broadway.

The first “One Book, One Campus, One Community” read project, featured “Rocket Boys” by famed author Homer H. Hickam, Jr. in **October 2008**.

2009

Skilled Craft Training Center in Hickory, KY opened on **October 14, 2009**, 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.

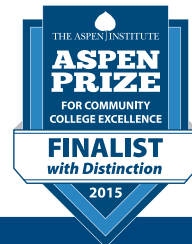
2010

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

More than 350 people attend the dedication of the Emerging Technology Center and the Fred Paxton Engineering Research Center in **March 2010**. 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.

In August 2010, the first Associate in Fine Arts degree in the Commonwealth of Kentucky was offered through the Paducah School of Art & Design. The first credential was awarded in May 2011.

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 in November 2010.



2011

In April, 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.

A groundbreaking was held for the Paducah Scholar House in May 2011.

West Kentucky's Culinary Arts program received accreditation by the American Culinary Federation Education Foundation's Accreditation Commission in August 2011. Only 213 culinary arts program across the nation and only four in Kentucky had received the accreditation at the time.

West Kentucky is named one of the top 5 community colleges in the nation on December 12, 2011 and received \$100,000.

2012

On 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.

Dr. Barbara Veazey's 10th anniversary as the founding President/CEO of the West Kentucky Community and Technical College celebrated on **May 1, 2012**.

West Kentucky is named one of ten finalists for the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence for a second consecutive year on **September 5, 2012**.

2013

For second consecutive year, West Kentucky was named as one of the top 10 best community colleges in the nation on **March 19, 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 in **July 2013**.

The Scholar House of Paducah, an initiative that provides housing for non-traditional college students, celebrated its first anniversary on July 12, 2013. 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.

In **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.

2014

On **January 31, 2014**, West Kentucky 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.

On 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.

The College was named one of 12 institutions in the Achieving the Dream National Reform Network on **February 28, 2014**. The Network is helping West Kentucky identify and implement strategies for closing achievement gaps and increasing student retention, persistence and completion rates.

On 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.

Paducah Bank announced on **April 8, 2014** a \$150,000 pledge to a fundraising campaign to complete West Kentucky's Paducah School of Art & Design's campus project.

West Kentucky is one of 11 colleges - the only one in Kentucky - to earn accreditation from the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) in May 2014. The organization ensures that college courses offered in high schools are equally rigorous as those available at the sponsoring post-secondary institution.

Murray State University and West Kentucky signed an agreement on **May 23, 2014** allowing students to earn a bachelor's degree in logistics and supply chain management from MSU without leaving Paducah.

On **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.

On **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.

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 on **September 4, 2014**.

Open house for the Sculpture Building and a community celebration of the art school is held on **September 30, 2014**.

2015

For the third time, WKCTC was recognized on **March 18, 2015** as a top community college in the nation, coming in second for the prestigious Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence as a Finalist with Distinction.

A grand opening for the Inland Logistics and Marine Institute was held on **August 10, 2015** in downtown Paducah.

2016

For a fourth consecutive time, the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program named WKCTC as one of the nation's top 150 community colleges eligible to compete for the 2017 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence and \$1 million dollars in prize funds.

