

TIMELINE

April 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 (WKCTC) District.

August 2002

Paducah's Challenger Learning Center officially opened with June Scobee Rodgers, widow of Challenger Mission Commander Dick Scobee, pronouncing it "a star in the education universe."

January 2003

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

March 2003

The first continuing education nursing program was held at the University of Guadalajara in Guadalajara, Mexico.

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

WKCTC was granted regional accreditation on December 9, 2003 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), officially completing the school's consolidation.

November 2004

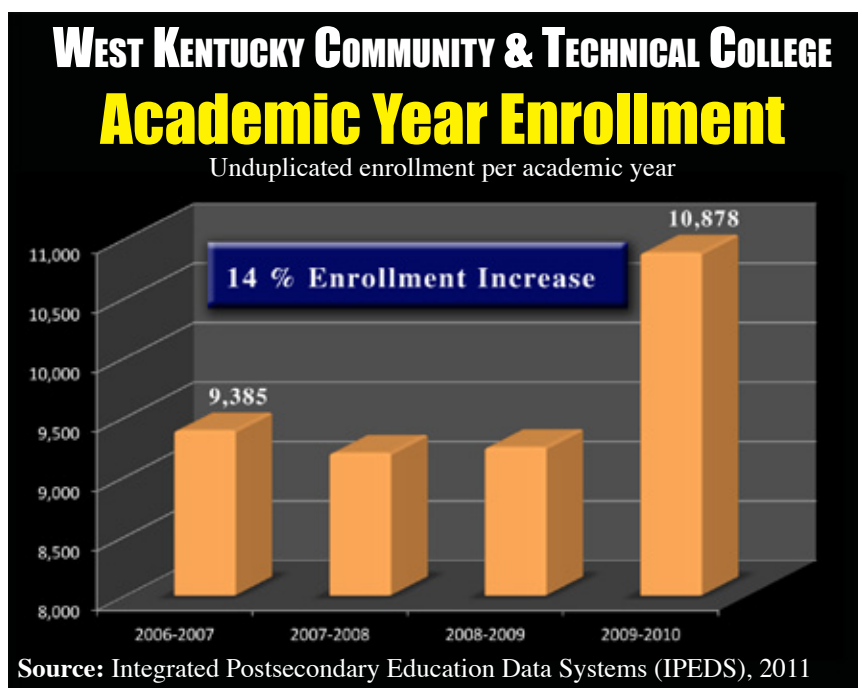
Drs. Barbara Veazey and Tena Payne traveled to Southeast Asia University in Bangkok, Thailand, and the Nepal School of Nursing in Pokhara as part of an effort to establish an international exchange program.

December 2004

All of WKCTC's 264 employees pledged donations to the WKCTC "Fulfilling the Promise" fund-raising campaign, raising \$134,511 and making WKCTC the first of the KCTCS colleges to achieve 100 percent employee participation.

March 2005

WKCTC 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.



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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 WKCTC for the construction of the Emerging Technology Center.

October 31, 2007

WKCTC received ownership of the former Kitchens Inc. building — future home of the Paducah School of Art — in a ceremony with city officials.

April 17, 2008

Officials from WKCTC, the Lay Family Foundation, and Marshall County and McCracken County schools announced a partnership to open the Commonwealth Middle College on the WKCTC campus.

July 31, 2008

A groundbreaking ceremony was held for the Emerging Technology Center.

August 18, 2008

The Paducah School of Art 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 and offered classes in nursing assistant and computer literacy.

January 2010

WKCTC joined forces with the Rotary Club of Paducah to establish the Community Scholarship Program. This program provides a two-year tuition scholarship at WKCTC 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.

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

WKCTC 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.

Four Commonwealth Middle College students graduated from WKCTC and their respective high schools.

August 2011

The Culinary Arts program at West Kentucky Community & Technical College is accredited by the American Culinary Federation Education Foundation’s Accreditation Commission.

September 2011

WKCTC is named one of the top ten community colleges in the nation by the Aspen Institute’s Community College Excellence Program. The College becomes eligible to share in the \$1 million Aspen Prize.



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