

## TRANSFORMATION

For the first time in history, there is a growing national recognition of the vital role that community colleges play in America's higher education system by preparing people for some of the most highly-skilled and high demand occupations in the 21st century. America aspires to once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world, and community colleges are being challenged to produce an additional 5 million graduates by the year 2020. The role that Kentucky's community and technical colleges will play in achieving this national goal is both exciting and challenging.

Now is the time to build a firmer, stronger foundation for growth that will not only withstand future economic storms, but one that helps us thrive and compete in a global economy. It's time to reform our community colleges so that they provide Americans of all ages a chance to learn the skills and knowledge necessary to compete for the jobs of the future."

-President Barack Obama

Fortunately, Kentucky is better positioned than most states to be a national leader in this agenda due to the passage of revolutionary legislation in 1997, the *Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act* known as House Bill One (HB1), that reformed postsecondary education at all levels and created the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS). Long before national leaders realized the critical role community colleges play in job creation, economic development, and global competitiveness, Kentucky's legislature set out to create a single system of community-based, 2-year colleges that would produce a well-educated and highly trained workforce that provides businesses in the Commonwealth with the competitive edge critical for their success.

Today, KCTCS is the largest institution of higher education in Kentucky, educating more than 50 percent of all undergraduate students enrolled in public higher education and serving as the major pipeline for job creation, the employability of Kentucky citizens, and the economic prosperity of families and communities. Our 16 colleges and their respective 68 campuses offer more than 600 certificate, diploma, and associate-degree programs that have increased access for Kentuckians to pursue their academic and career aspirations and provided business and industry with a highly educated and trained workforce to keep them globally competitive.

The role of KCTCS in Kentucky's future is indeed exciting but we are challenged by limited state resources at a time when postsecondary education and training is more essential than ever to Kentucky's future, especially the type that KCTCS offers. This new economic reality has caused us to take a hard look at how we do business.

In the summer of 2010, I launched a year-long *Transformation Initiative* aimed at harnessing our collective strengths and building on the extraordinary talents and skills of our 10,000+ full- and part-time faculty and staff. The definition of "transform" is to alter or be altered radically in form and/or function. Through this initiative, KCTCS is choosing to transform itself by implementing the nine strategies outlined in this plan that will enable KCTCS to make a greater impact throughout Kentucky and swiftly advance our vision of being the premier community and technical college system in the nation. And in the end, the *KCTCS Transformation* will further enhance access, retention, and success for KCTCS students that will improve their quality of life and employability, and that will lead to global competitiveness and economic prosperity that benefits every citizen in the Commonwealth.

Michael B. McCall, President
Kentucky Community & Technical College System