

...news release...

KENTUCKY

LONG-TERM POLICY RESEARCH CENTER

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Education Conference To Be Streamed Live On The Web

FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY (November 7, 2007) — The Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center's annual conference, "Making Money Matter: Maximizing Student Achievement with our Investments in Education," will be held on November 13th in Lexington. Partnering with the Center in this event are the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence, the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, the Council on Postsecondary Education, and Kentucky Educational Television (KET). Indeed, KET will host Web streaming during the conference itself, allowing citizens to watch the proceedings live on the Internet.

The one-day conference will focus on how best to leverage higher returns on our investments in education. In short, if our primary goal is to elevate academic performance, how and where do we target Kentucky's limited resources? Given current economic, social, and educational trends, our state appears to be at a critical juncture. Just over half of Kentucky students qualify for free or reduced-price school meals, and these students' test scores are, on average, significantly lower than those of more advantaged students. Kentucky's future prosperity will depend, in large part, on our ability to close this achievement gap. Moreover, as the global economy evolves, high-level math, science, and problem-solving skills will determine the economic success of individuals as well as entire economies. Yet our students' performance in mathematics continues to lag on the National Assessment of Educational Progress.

Making Money Matter will feature national experts on subjects ranging from early childhood education to alternative teacher compensation structures. Throughout, the focus will remain on what factors have the most significant impact on student achievement and are, thus, the most likely to yield returns on public investment. Featured conference speakers include Doug Mesecar, Acting Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development with the U.S. Department of Education; Dr. M. Rebecca Kilburn from RAND, addressing early childhood development; Dr. Patrick J. Schuermann from Vanderbilt University, discussing teacher compensation; Dr. Marc Tucker, with the National Center on Education and the Economy, reporting on the dynamic global labor market; and Ross Weiner, with the Education Trust, commenting on the achievement gap. During the luncheon break, the 2007 Hellard Award will also be presented to John R. Hall, civic leader, philanthropist, and former CEO of Ashland, Inc.

To register for the conference, go to the Center's Web site at <http://www.kltprc.net/conference2007.htm> or contact the Center at 800-853-2851 or 502-564-2851 for further information. You may also register at the door. To access the live webcast on November 13th, go to KET's Web page at <http://www.ket.org/longtermpolicy>.

The Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center is a state agency dedicated to research into trends and issues that are likely to influence the future of the state. Created by the General Assembly in 1992, the Center is governed by a 21-member board and has a mandate to increase knowledge about issues on Kentucky's horizon, guide planning efforts throughout state government, and engage citizens and policymakers in preparing for the future.

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