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UA3/9/5 SKyTeach Announcement

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SKyTEACH ANNOUNCEMENT
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2007
PROGRAM AGENDA

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENT
DR. GARY RANSDELL, WKU PRESIDENT

REMARKS

EACH INDIVIDUAL PLEASE COME FORWARD ONE AFTER THE OTHER

REPRESENTATIVE FOR NATIONAL MATH AND SCIENCE INITIATIVE – JOHN WINN

REPRESENTATIVE FROM EXXONMOBIL – SARA KEMKER TAYS

REPRESENTATIVE FROM UTEACH INSTITUTE – SHELDON EKLAND-OLSON

DR. RANSDELL TO INTRODUCE DEANS

DR. SAM EVANS, DEAN, WKU COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

DR. BLAINE FERRELL, DEAN, WKU OGDEN COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

DR. RANSDELL TO CALL ON SARA KEMKER TAYS OF EXXONMOBIL FOR SPECIAL PRESENTATION

CHECK PRESENTATION

DR. RANSDELL AND DEANS FERRELL AND EVANS TO RECEIVE

CLOSING REMARKS

DR. RANSDELL

DR. RANSDELL WILL OPEN UP FOR QUESTIONS FROM MEDIA AND OTHERS, THANK ALL FOR COMING AND INVITE GUESTS TO ENJOY REFRESHMENTS
SkyTEACH ANNOUNCEMENT
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2007
PROGRAM

WELCOME – DR. GARY RANSDELL

- TODAY IS AN EXCITING DAY FOR WKU AND FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, AND I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR JOINING US FOR THIS IMPORTANT – PERHAPS MONUMENTAL – ANNOUNCEMENT.

- I WANT TO BEGIN BY RECOGNIZING THOSE MEMBERS OF OUR STATE LEGISLATURE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS WHO COULD JOIN US TODAY. SPEAKER JODY RICHARDS; REPRESENTATIVE JIM DECESARE; REPRESENTATIVE JOHNNY BELL; REPRESENTATIVE C.B. EMBRY; BOWLING GREEN MAYOR ELAINE WALKER; WARREN COUNTY JUDGE EXECUTIVE MIKE BUCHANON; LEANN CROSBY, FIELD REPRESENTATIVE FOR U.S. SENATOR MITCH MCCONNELL; AND PHYLLIS CAUSEY, FIELD REPRESENTATIVE FOR CONGRESSMAN RON LEWIS.
• The focus of universities today is as much about driving economic development as it is about teaching.

• The reason we gather today is to bring those two important missions – teaching and economic development - together in a significant way.

• UTeach is a program that started at the University of Texas at Austin in 1997 as a new approach to preparing secondary teachers for science, math and computer science.

• It is a collaborative program that was designed by secondary teachers and brings together the university's science and education colleges and the K-12 community.

• The purpose of UTeach is to encourage students pursuing math and science degrees to enter the teaching profession by offering a uniquely designed program that integrates the math and science curriculum and teacher education.
• FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND EARLY TEACHING EXPERIENCES WILL BE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PROGRAM.

• THE UTEACH PROGRAM IS BEING REPLICATED NATIONALLY THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF THE EXXON MOBIL FOUNDATION, WHICH PROVIDED $125 MILLION TO THE NATIONAL MATH AND SCIENCE INITIATIVE TO MAKE THIS POSSIBLE.

• I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE TODAY THAT WKU IS ONE OF 12 UNIVERSITIES ACROSS THE NATION CHOSEN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE UTEACH NATIONAL INITIATIVE. (PAUSE AND PROMPT APPLAUSE HERE.)

• WE HEAR OFTEN OF THE SHORTAGE OF MATH AND SCIENCE TEACHERS – AND WE KNOW THIS IS A CHALLENGE FOR OUR NATION AS WELL AS A CHALLENGE FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY.
SKYTEACH – NAMED FOR OUR GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION IN SOUTHERN KENTUCKY; REPRESENTATION OF THE SCIENCES; AND THE CONCEPT THAT THE SKY IS THE LIMIT - WILL POSITION WKU AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY TO BECOME THE LEADER IN PROVIDING OUTSTANDING MATH AND SCIENCE TEACHERS, NOT ONLY FOR OUR REGION OF KENTUCKY, BUT ALSO FOR OUR REGION OF THE COUNTRY - KENTUCKY, TENNESSEE, INDIANA, ILLINOIS AND SOUTHERN OHIO.

THIS GRANT AWARD IS FOR $2.4 MILLION - $1 MILLION OF WHICH WILL BE AN ENDOWMENT MATCHED WITH GIFTS TO THE UNIVERSITY TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO MATH AND SCIENCE STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM.

WKU WAS AMONG 12 PROMINENT UNIVERSITIES TO RECEIVE THIS AWARD – 52 COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES FROM ACROSS THE UNITED STATES APPLIED.

WE ARE THE ONLY UNIVERSITY IN KENTUCKY AND IN THIS REGION OF THE COUNTRY TO RECEIVE THE UTEACH GRANT.
THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, AND WKU ARE AMONG THE 12. THE OTHERS HAVE NOT YET BEEN ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY, BUT LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT YOU WILL BE MOST IMPRESSED, AND WE CAN ALL BE PROUD THAT WKU IS IN THIS ELITE GROUP. WHY WKU?

WKU HAS SPENT ITS 100 YEAR HISTORY EDUCATING THIS STATE’S TEACHERS.

OUR HERITAGE, REPUTATION AND COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE IN TEACHER EDUCATION ARE WELL-KNOWN, AND THAT WILL BE THE BACKBONE OF THIS INITIATIVE.

IN OUR MORE RECENT HISTORY, WKU HAS DISTINGUISHED ITSELF IN MATH, SCIENCE, AND ENGINEERING - CREATING NEW PROGRAMS IN ENGINEERING AND APPLIED RESEARCH THAT GIVE STUDENTS HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE AND PROVIDE VALUABLE SERVICE FOR BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY.
THE DYNAMICS ARE ALSO AT WORK HERE ON OUR CAMPUS BETWEEN THE WKU CENTER FOR GIFTED STUDIES, WHICH HAS FOCUSED ON IDENTIFYING KENTUCKY’S BRIGHTEST AND MOST TALENTED YOUNG PEOPLE FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS; THE GATTON ACADEMY FOR MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE IN KENTUCKY, WHICH IS A RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM FOR KENTUCKY’S TOP HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS AND SENIORS WHO ARE COMPLETING THEIR FINAL TWO YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL AND THEIR FIRST TWO YEARS OF COLLEGE SIMULTANEOUSLY AT WKU; AND THE WKU HONORS COLLEGE, WHICH ADDS AN HONORS COMPONENT ACROSS ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES FOR EXCEPTIONAL WKU STUDENTS.

IN ADDITION, WKU’S FOCUS ON PRIVATE FUNDRAISING AND THE GENEROSITY OF OUR ALUMNI AND SUPPORTERS THROUGH THEIR GIFTS OF NEARLY $20 MILLION PER YEAR IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT FACTOR.
• **ALL OF THESE COMPONENTS**—TEACHER EDUCATION, ENGINEERING, APPLIED RESEARCH, GIFTED STUDIES, THE GATTON ACADEMY OF MATH AND SCIENCE, THE HONORS COLLEGE, AND OUR OWN INITIATIVE TO ENGAGE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS—COMBINE TO CREATE A SYNERGY THAT DOESN'T EXIST ANYWHERE ELSE IN KENTUCKY BUT CREATES AN IDEAL ENVIRONMENT TO MAKE THE UTEACH INITIATIVE SUCCESSFUL AT WKU.

• I WANT TO RECOGNIZE THE WKU TEAM WHO PUT SKYTEACH TOGETHER:

  DR. SCOTT BONHAM, FROM THE OGDEN COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING, THE PRINCIPLE IN THIS COLLABORATION;

  DR. RICHARD GELDERMAN, ALSO FROM THE OGDEN COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING, AND DR. TONY NORMAN FROM THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES, WHO WILL SERVE AS CODIRECTORS OF SKYTEACH;
AND OUR K-12 PARTNERS – AS I NAME THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS, IF THERE ARE REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE, PLEASE STEP FORWARD TO BE RECOGNIZED:

THE GREEN RIVER REGIONAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE;

BOWLING GREEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS;

WARREN COUNTY SCHOOLS;

GLASGOW INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS;

GRAYSON COUNTY SCHOOLS;

HANCOCK COUNTY SCHOOLS;

HARDIN COUNTY SCHOOLS;

HART COUNTY SCHOOLS;

LARUE COUNTY SCHOOLS;

LOGAN COUNTY SCHOOLS;

AND RUSSELLVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS.
• THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO ARE COMMITTED TO PREPARING TOMORROW’S MATH AND SCIENCE TEACHERS AND WHO WILL COLLABORATE TO BRING TOGETHER ALL LEVELS OF EDUCATION IN AN UNPRECEDENTED WAY. (ASK FOR APPLAUSE FOR THESE INDIVIDUALS.)

• THIS IS WHAT OUR STATE LEADERS WERE SEEKING WHEN THEY SOUGHT TO CREATE “SEAMLESS EDUCATION” FOR KENTUCKY. (REFERENCE LEGISLATORS IN ATTENDANCE.)

• I ALSO WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE THREE ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE MADE THIS INITIATIVE POSSIBLE:

  THE NATIONAL MATH AND SCIENCE INITIATIVE,
  REPRESENTED TODAY BY JOHN WINN;

  EXXON MOBIL CORPORATION, REPRESENTED BY SARA KEMKER PAYS;

  AND THE UTEACH INSTITUTE, REPRESENTED BY SHELDON EKLAND-OLSON.
• (COMMENTS DIRECTED TO THE SPEAKERS) I WOULD LIKE TO INVITE EACH OF YOU TO MAKE SOME REMARKS, BEGINNING WITH JOHN WINN. EACH WILL FOLLOW THE OTHER WITHOUT ADDITIONAL INTRODUCTION.

REMARKS FROM JOHN WINN, NATIONAL MATH AND SCIENCE INITIATIVE.

REMARKS FROM SARA KEMKER TAYS, EXXON MOBIL.

REMARKS FROM SHELDON EKLAND-OLSON, UTEACH.

DR. RANSDELL BACK TO THE PODIUM - INTRODUCE DR. SAM EVANS, DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES, AND DR. BLAINE FERRELL, OGDEN COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING TO MAKE SOME ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ABOUT SKYTEACH. DR. EVANS TO SPEAK FIRST, FOLLOWED BY DR. FERRELL.

DR. RANSDELL BACK TO THE PODIUM - CALL ON SARA KEMKER TAYS FROM EXXON MOBIL TO MAKE SPECIAL PRESENTATION.

FOLLOWING CHECK PRESENTATION AND WHILE EVERYONE IS STANDING, DR. RANSDELL ASK THE MEDIA IF THEY HAVE ANY QUESTIONS AT THIS TIME.
SKYTEACH WILL BECOME THE CORNERSTONE OF OUR K-12 MATH AND SCIENCE ACTIVITIES AT WKU.

WE AGAIN THANK ALL THOSE INVOLVED WITH THIS PROJECT, AND THANK EACH OF YOU FOR CELEBRATING THIS EXCITING OPPORTUNITY WITH US TODAY.

PLEASE ENJOY SOME REFRESHMENTS AND CONTINUE VISITING WITH US.