



A Message from Mason

Just as our members continue to develop programs to address Kentucky's workforce needs — like Bellarmine University's new Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program, UPIKE's expansion of the Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine, or the equine- and bourbon-focused programs at Midway University — AIKCU strives to innovate to meet our members' needs.



Mason Dyer
AIKCU President

One area where independent colleges can always use help is in cutting costs and finding efficiencies.

AIKCU has a long history of developing collaborative programs that save our members time and money on products and services they could not obtain on their own. Over the years, we've given them greater buying power through a successful self-funded health insurance program (the AIKCU Benefit Alliance) and a variety of cost-saving agreements that encompass everything from cybersecurity insurance to procurement solutions.

We've built on that financial expertise to launch our latest venture — the AIKCU Multiple Employer Plan — to help participating campuses improve retirement plan offerings to employees, while mitigating the financial risk and administrative burden they face as employers.

These options give our members more time to focus on helping students achieve their dreams. And as the recent commencement season reminds us, that's what it's all about.



Lt. Gov. Coleman meets with AIKCU Board of Directors

Kentucky's independent college presidents welcomed Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman (center) to talk about the value of the liberal arts, preparing students to meet workforce needs, and public-private partnerships. Lt. Gov. Coleman is an alumna of Centre College.

The visit took place during the spring meeting of the AIKCU Board of Directors at Midway University on May 21. Midway President John P. Marsden is chair of the board.

AIKCU appreciates Lt. Gov. Coleman's support of its 18 member colleges.

AIKCU offers new retirement option to members with launch of multiple employer plan

The Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities is pleased to announce that its members can now offer improved, competitive retirement benefits through an AIKCU-sponsored multiple employer plan. After several years in the works, the AIKCU MEP officially formed June 1 with a first round of four member colleges.

"This multiple employer plan is the latest effort in AIKCU's history of helping Kentucky's independent colleges and universities collaborate to develop efficiencies and cost savings, so they can focus time and resources on their mission of providing high-quality education for students," said Mason Dyer, AIKCU president.

5 Degrees Branding sheds light on higher ed marketing to AIKCU admissions, marcomms officers

Admissions and marketing/communications pros from Kentucky's independent colleges learned how to improve their marketing and branding efforts at a joint spring meeting May 16 at Bellarmine University.

Ryan Morabito, senior advisor for 5 Degrees Branding, led a workshop on his popular LinkedIn posts, "Higher Ed Marketing Truths."

The interactive session allowed participants to evaluate their institution's marketing gaps and opportunities. Morabito's blog can be found at www.5degreesbranding.com/higher-ed-marketing-truths.

Morabito was joined by Lee Insko, founder of 5 Degrees.



Ryan Morabito of 5 Degrees Branding presents on "Higher Ed Marketing Truths" to AIKCU Admissions and Marketing/Communications officers at Bellarmine University.

New AIKCU MEP retirement option

continued from front

"I'm grateful for the excellent work by Krista Hudson on our staff, our partners, and especially the campus leaders who have brought the AIKCU MEP to fruition."

Multiple employer plans allow employers to band together to take advantage of scale and efficiencies they cannot achieve on their own.

AIKCU explored offering a MEP in 2018 but reinvigorated those efforts this year in response to renewed member interest. It anticipates that the AIKCU MEP will be fully operational in late 2024.

"We're excited that the AIKCU MEP will allow our members to provide enhanced retirement plans for their new and existing employees," said Krista Hudson, AIKCU's vice president of Finance and Administration. "At the same time, our members — as employers — will benefit from potential cost savings, less burdensome administration, and streamlined operations."

Plan Providers & Governing Board

The AIKCU MEP is administered by four highly regarded plan providers, which offer the resources, tools, and services that plan sponsors need. PlanPILOT is the 3(38) investment fiduciary, Millennium is the registered investment adviser, Pentegra is the 3(16) administrative fiduciary, and TIAA is the plan recordkeeper.

The four plan providers work closely with the newly formed

AIKCU MEP governing board, which is composed of human resources and chief financial officers from the participating colleges and universities.

Hudson said that with the first round of MEP joiners well underway, AIKCU and plan providers are starting discussions with the next round of AIKCU member adopters.

AIKCU Benefits Spotlight: Meeting of the Minds

One of AIKCU's most important roles is providing opportunities for AIKCU Affiliate Groups to meet in person and online to share experiences and best practices with their colleagues from AIKCU's 18 member colleges. The Affiliate Groups that met this spring are:

Admissions Officers Meeting

Virtual, March 7

Financial Aid Officers Meeting

Virtual, March 7

Career Services Officers Meeting

Virtual, March 7

Library Directors Meeting

Asbury University, April 12

Information Technology Officers Meeting

Georgetown College, April 16

Chief Academic Officers Meeting

Georgetown College, May 3

Admissions & Marcomms Officers Meeting

Bellarmino University, May 16

Facilities Officers Meeting

Asbury University, May 29

