

**TARTER REALTY
AND AUCTION CO.**
tarteronline.com • 270-781-0001

HERE TO ASSIST
WITH
OVER 60 YEARS
OF
ESTATE AUCTION
EXPERIENCE

BREAKING



Hilltopper basketball legend McDaniels dies at 69

**Life isn't always convenient.
We believe healthcare should be.**

 **GRAVES GILBERT CLINIC**
Walk In Care

No Appointment Needed. Open 7:30 am to 7:30 pm, 7 days a week.

Family Care Center
2724 Nashville Road

Hartland Location
1225 Fairway Street

Franklin Walk-In Care
121 Memorial Drive, Franklin KY

Home / News

http://www.bgdailynews.com/news/regional-superintendents-size-up-new-wku-president-share-state-pension/article_4cf299f7-d200-505d-9c3f-84acb23b6dd7.html

Regional superintendents size up new WKU president, share state pension concerns

AARON MUDD amudd@bgdailynews.com 42 min ago





Regional superintendents had their first chance to size up new Western Kentucky University President Timothy Caboni during a meeting of the Green River Regional Educational Cooperative on Wednesday when he spoke about partnering with the group's member school districts.

"We know that this organization is one that is crucial for our success," Caboni told the group. "Human capital is where it's at. If we're going to grow this region, we need to make sure that we have the most educated and talented folks staying in the region."

Caboni said as many as 60 percent of WKU's students come from the districts' schools. The group includes 43 member school districts across southcentral and western Kentucky. WKU is also a member.

"I'd like it to be even higher," he said. "I want more of your students to come to Western (Kentucky University), and we're going to work really hard to make that happen."

Caboni also spoke about his goal of making WKU stand out in its educational mission.

"I spent most of my career at a research I university," Caboni said. "We're not built for that. ... The work that we do is applied research."

Caboni also said the partnership between GRREC and WKU is a good example of how applied research works.

“The idea that we’re going to take theory and apply it (in) practice, use best practices to support education and learning, it’s just a terrific, terrific example of how that works and how that benefits not just the institution and participants but the entire region,” he said.

Regional superintendents who attended the meeting had positive impressions of Caboni.

Superintendent Rob Clayton of Warren County Public Schools said he’s had the chance to speak with Caboni at length.

“I’ve been very impressed with his willingness to reach out,” to all stakeholders, Clayton said. He also appreciates Caboni’s enthusiasm and passion for students and said he looks forward to working with him.

Superintendent Paul Mullins of Logan County Schools was also impressed after first seeing Caboni speak at the meeting.

“I was impressed with his focus on culture and people,” Mullins said, adding he was also encouraged by the focus on increasing recruitment efforts in the GRREC region.

Superintendent Bo Matthews of Barren County Schools also said he was interested in partnering with Caboni.

“He has a pulse on where Western is,” and its future, Matthews said.

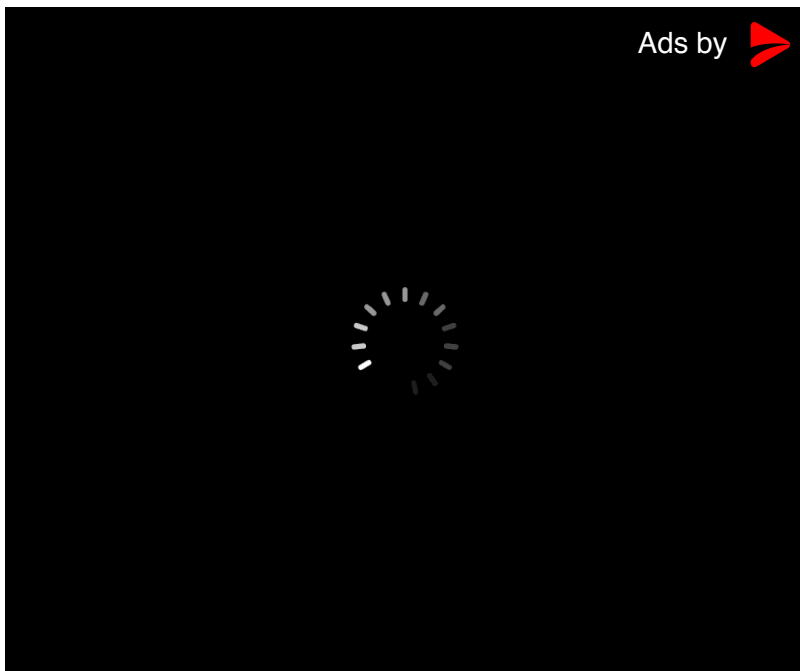
During the meeting, GRREC members watched a video about the excellence gap by Mary Evans with WKU’s Center for Gifted Studies. The excellence gap is the achievement gap between different student demographics at the advanced level.

The video included Kentucky’s 2015 data from the National Assessment for Education Progress.

The data indicated the percentage of fourth-grade students scoring at the advanced levels in mathematics to be more than four times greater for students who are not eligible for free and reduced-price lunch than for students who were eligible. The mathematics data for Kentucky's eighth-grade students showed similar results.

Considering ethnicity, the data for the state's K-PREP data show gaps for Hispanic and African-American students. Only 10 percent of Hispanic students and only 6 percent of African-American students scored at the distinguished level on the K-PREP at the elementary level, according to the video presentation.

In other business, Superintendent Jim Flynn of Simpson County Schools discussed a new campaign to promote teaching as a profession in light of negative perception around the field.



“I think we need to work together on a concerted effort to change that conversation about education and careers and make it known that there is an amazing opportunity to make a difference in the lives of young people,” Flynn said.

Flynn said in Simpson County, the district is partnering with SOKY Jobs to promote education jobs locally and then shared a video spotlighting those jobs.

Flynn said many people have been turned off of education careers because of a perception of low salaries. He described the state's underfunded pension system as another problem for recruiting teachers.

Matthews agreed, describing a concern that it could make recruiting teachers more difficult.

“That puts us in a very precarious situation,” he said in an interview.

GRREC executive director Tim Murley said in an interview that he was “very disappointed” with some of the comments Gov. Matt Bevin made about teachers.

“Hopefully it wasn't meant as it was said,” Murley said.

Murley said that, while he didn't get into education solely for the retirement benefits, it was a draw for him and has been for other educators.

“I am worried about the recruitment,” of new teachers, he said.

– Follow education reporter Aaron Mudd on Twitter @BGDN_edbeat or visit bgdailynews.com.

Aaron Mudd

Education reporter. Covers education and related issues, focusing primarily on the Bowling Green and Warren County public school districts and Western Kentucky University.