

Eastern Kentucky University Accomplishments

For Fall 2003, EKU experienced an enrollment increase of 5.8 percent, its largest increase in 12 years, with a 20 percent increase in African-American students.

Nearly 70 percent of Eastern Kentucky University students are the first in their families to go to college. A great many of these students pursue degrees in service fields such as teaching, medicine and police work, then return to their communities to make a real difference.

Eastern's College of Education produces more teachers and school administrators than any institution in Kentucky.

Eastern's undergraduate and graduate programs in business administration, in 2003 joined the nation's elite business schools, including Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard and Yale, when they received accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International. Only 30 percent of U.S. business schools can boast AACSB accreditation.

EKU's Program of Distinction, our College of Justice & Safety, has an international reputation in the fields of safety and security, fields that have taken on added significance in the Post-9/11 world.

Dear

As you consider the 2004-06 biennial budget for the Commonwealth, I urge you to make funding of Kentucky's state colleges and universities a top priority. As a student at Eastern Kentucky University, I know firsthand the value of an accessible, high-quality college education both to individual students and to the communities to which we will return.

In spite of recent state budget cuts and a national recession, Eastern and other leading state universities have met and even surpassed the challenges outlined in House Bill 1. Student enrollment has increased, graduation rates have risen, national reputations have improved and budgetary efficiencies have been created through the streamlining of programs.

House Bill 1 charged the state's colleges and universities with improving the lives of all Kentuckians. Major cuts now would hamstring this effort just as real progress is being made.

The Appalachian Regional Commission has labeled 40 counties in Eastern Kentucky as severely economically disadvantaged. Only by continuing to provide affordable education can we bring opportunity and prosperity to this region and to the Commonwealth as a whole.

Your previous support has resulted in substantial progress for Eastern and its fellow universities. By continuing to invest in Kentucky's state college system today, you can ensure that this progress toward a better quality of life for every citizen of this Commonwealth remains within reach.

Sincerely,