

BIG SANDY COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE STUDENT, JUSTIN CHAFIN, AMONG THE INAUGURAL CLASS OF LEADERSHIP KCTCS

LEXINGTON, KY Justin Chafin was among the graduates in a commencement ceremony recognizing the inaugural class of Leadership KCTCS took place April 24 at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Downtown Lexington. Leadership KCTCS is an initiative of NewCitizen Kentucky, a partnership formed by the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), the NewCities Institute (NCI) and the Kentucky League of Cities (KLC). Justin is a student at Big Sandy Community and Technical College (BSCTC).

First announced during at the 2006 KLC Annual Convention & Expo, the goal of the partnership is to raise the civic capacity and create new economic opportunities for every citizen of the commonwealth.

The program curriculum allowed 16 student leaders, one from each KCTCS college, to attend specially designed leadership seminars across the state. It also provided students with practical experiential learning opportunities in communities throughout the commonwealth designed around the four broad themes of the NewCities principles: people, perspective, place, and prosperity. The students participated in shadowing experiences with civic leaders and observed academic and community leaders who shared their leadership experiences. Students kept journals to reflect upon their experiences of witnessing the 12 principles in action in their and other communities throughout the state.

The KCTCS statewide system is the largest provider of postsecondary education and workforce training in Kentucky. Its mission is to improve the quality of life and employability of citizens by providing postsecondary education programs, workforce training and services.

With 16 colleges and 67 campuses across the state, KCTCS, in partnership with the Kentucky League of Cities, is perfectly positioned to take the lead in developing future community leaders like the graduates of this inaugural class, said KCTCS President Michael B. McCall.

Leadership KCTCS provides a unique opportunity for up and coming leaders from across the state to get real world experience in the public sector, said Sylvia L. Lovely, president of the NewCities Institute and executive director/CEO of the Kentucky League of Cities. This programming is a first step at accelerating civic involvement with students that will likely remain in their home communities. If we can educate them about community issues, perhaps they will get involved and take a greater interest in the future of their hometown.

The NewCities Institute is a nonprofit educational foundation that seeks to cultivate civic leadership and citizen involvement while helping communities further reach their potential through economic development, education, voter participation, partnerships and community building.

Both Lovely and Dr. McCall attended the graduation ceremonies to address the graduates and present them with certificates of recognition.

Through a special grant from Fifth Third Bank the NewCities Institute and the Kentucky League of Cities will provide a special gift to KCTCS graduates over the next two years. Each graduate will receive a copy of Sylvia L. Lovely's new book, *The Little Red Book of Everyday Heroes*. These books will be distributed to the colleges prior to graduation ceremonies.

Members of the KCTCS Leadership Inaugural Class are, by college:

Ashland CTC: Marilyn Sargent

Big Sandy CTC: Justin Chafin

Bluegrass CTC: Luke Taylor

Bowling Green TC: Anita Lynch

Elizabethtown CTC: Jana Knight

Gateway CTC: Theresa Wiehoff

Hazard CTC: Tracy Hamilton

Henderson CC: B.C.Thomas

Hopkinsville CC: Cynthia Mason

Jefferson CTC: Latosha Perry

Madisonville CC: Keila Melton

Maysville CTC: Brittany Hutten

Owensboro CTC: Kristi Bullock

Somerset CC: Sabrina Davis

Southeast KY CTC: Lois Bailey

West KY CTC: Brittany Mayo

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