

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Follow us on Twitter:** @AspenHigherEd, #AspenPrize

**Contact: Tiffany Yoon**

202-736-2531 | [Tiffany.Yoon@aspeninstitute.org](mailto:Tiffany.Yoon@aspeninstitute.org)

**West Kentucky Community and Technical College media contact:**

Janett Blythe, 270-534-3079 | [janett.blythe@kctcs.edu](mailto:janett.blythe@kctcs.edu)

**ASPEN INSTITUTE RECOGNIZES  
WEST KENTUCKY COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE IN PADUCAH, KY  
AS ONE OF TOP TEN FINALISTS IN NATIONAL PRIZE COMPETITION**

Today, West Kentucky Community and Technical College (WKCTC) was recognized in an award ceremony in Washington, DC, as one of the top ten community colleges nationally in the bi-annual Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. During the ceremony at the Newseum, WKCTC was recognized for:

- Achieving a strong three-year graduation/transfer rate (47% compared to 39% nationally)
- Utilization of data to improve student learning, exceptional culture to get faculty engaged in improving teaching/learning that has led to measurable improvements in student success

As noted in the Aspen Institute's extensive review, WKCTC has earned a place on the ten finalists' list every year the Prize has been awarded (2011, 2013, and 2015) and was named a finalist-with-distinction in 2011 and 2015. WKCTC continues to impress with its deep commitment to the success of its 9,600 students and to its community. The college is a primary player in efforts to expand local economic opportunity. From partnering with local organizations, outreach to minority students, to maintaining programs that allow students to earn college credit while completing high school, their ongoing dedication to improving lives beyond their own doors is remarkable. WKCTC has worked hard to successfully close college-level course completion gaps between minority and non-minority students enrolled in accelerated developmental courses. Working with the community to secure funding to build the Emerging Technology Center, the college has brought together state-of-the-art facilities, customized training for business and industry, and college courses to meet the technology needs of the regional labor market

We thank WKCTC for participating in this year's Aspen Prize process, and for helping define excellence for community colleges nationwide.

**For more information on West Kentucky Community and Technical College, and the national press release, go to: <http://as.pn/1kr>.**

#####

**The Aspen Prize** is funded by the Joyce Foundation, The Kresge Foundation, the Siemens Foundation, and Pearson.

**The Aspen College Excellence Program** aims to advance higher education practices, policies, and leadership that significantly improve student outcomes. Through the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the Siemens Technical Scholars Program, and other initiatives, the College Excellence Program works to improve colleges' understanding and capacity to teach and graduate students, especially the growing population of low-income and minority students on American campuses. For more information, visit <http://highered.aspeninstitute.org/>.

**The Aspen Institute** is an educational and policy studies organization based in Washington, DC. Its mission is to foster leadership based on enduring values and to provide a nonpartisan venue for dealing with critical issues. The Institute is based in Washington, DC; Aspen, Colorado; and on the Wye River on Maryland's Eastern Shore. It also has offices in New York City and an international network of partners. For more information, visit [www.aspeninstitute.org](http://www.aspeninstitute.org).