



**WORK  
READY**

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Ready. Set. Work.



## Interim Joint Committee Economic Development & Workforce Investment

June 2019

Dr. Jay Box  
President

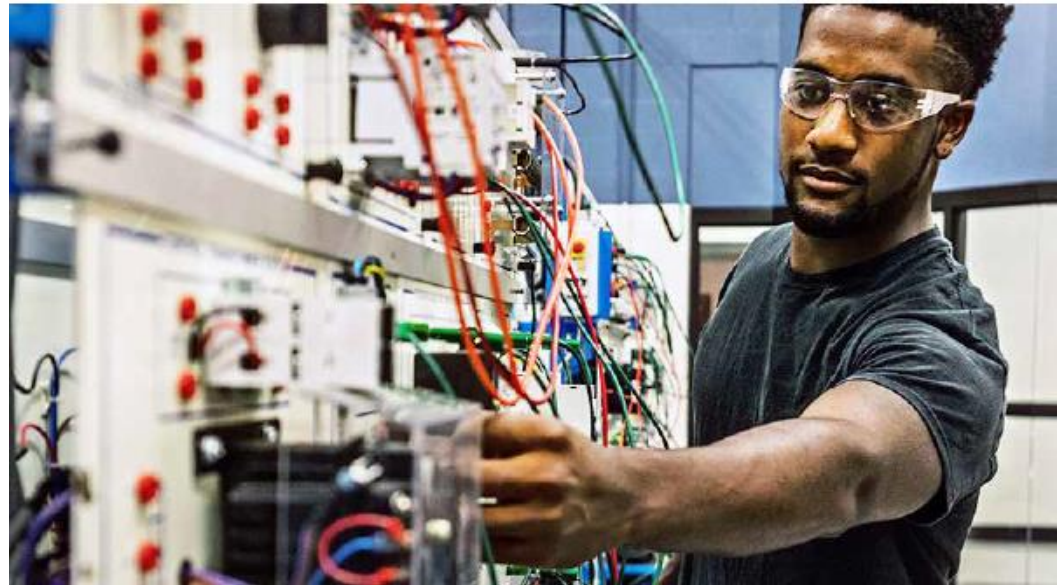


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# WORK READY KENTUCKY SCHOLARSHIP

The Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship (WRKS) helps Kentuckians who have not yet earned an associate's degree afford an industry-recognized certificate or diploma.

Student must be in approved program of study that leads to an industry recognized certificate or diploma or Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in a high-demand workforce sector.



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# HISTORY

- 2016
  - HB303 appropriates funding for the new Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship (WRKS)
- 2017
  - Governor Bevin signs an Executive Order to establish the framework of the program
  - First awards distributed Fall 2017
- 2018
  - With no WRKS bill reaching his desk during the session, Governor Bevin signs another Executive Order
- 2019
  - SB98 is signed into law

# SB98

Starting in the fall of 2018, a group of stakeholders including KCTCS, KHEAA, KDE, and the Workforce and Education Cabinet met to discuss recommended changes to the WRKS to be included in a bill for 2019.

**Ultimately, changes included to the WRKS in SB98 were:**

- The scholarship was expanded to include awards for summer term; this expansion will take effect in 2020.
- Eligibility extended from secondary to postsecondary to ensure access up to 60 credit hours of WRKS access if the student used the WRKS for dual-credit classes.
- Removes requirement for the Dual Credit Scholarship to be used first

# PROGRAMS OF STUDY

For 2018-2019 these high-demand sectors are:

- **Advanced manufacturing**
- **Health care**
- **Transportation/logistics**
- **Business services/IT**
- **Construction**

**These are identified by the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board and the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet.**



# HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

- Be a Kentucky resident
- Be enrolled in a KY high school
- Be enrolled, or accepted for enrollment, in an approved dual credit course at an eligible institution
- Compete and submit a Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship dual credit application to the KHEAA

# ADULT STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

- Be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States
- Be a Kentucky resident
- Have earned a high school diploma or a High School Equivalency Diploma or be enrolled in a High School Equivalency Diploma program
- Not have earned an associate's degree or higher-level postsecondary degree
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid for the academic year in which the scholarship is awarded
- Complete and submit a Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship application
- Enroll in an eligible program of study at an eligible institution
- Not be enrolled in an ineligible degree program, such as a bachelor or unapproved associate program, at any postsecondary institution
- Following the first academic term scholarship funds are received, achieve and maintain satisfactory academic progress as determined by the eligible institution
- Not be in default on any program under Title IV of the federal act or any obligation to the KHEAA under any program administered by KHEAA



# ADULT ELIGIBILITY LIMIT

**Expires when the first of the following conditions is met:**

- Receipt of scholarship funding for four academic terms;
- Receipt of the scholarship for 60 credit hours of enrollment; or
- Receipt of a first associate's degree



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# AWARD AMOUNT ADULT STUDENTS

*“The scholarship amount awarded to an eligible workforce student for an academic term shall be the amount remaining after subtracting the student's federal and state grants and scholarships from the maximum scholarship amount”.*

- The WRKS is a “last dollar” scholarship.
- It is meant to meet remaining need left after other aid has been received.
- The maximum scholarship is limited to the KCTCS in-state tuition rate times the number of credit hours taken.



# AWARD AMOUNT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

- The scholarship award for an eligible high school student shall be limited to 2 approved dual credit courses per academic year.
- "Approved dual credit course" means a dual credit course that is a career and technical education course within a career pathway approved by the Kentucky Department of Education that leads to an industry-recognized credential.
- The scholarship amount awarded shall be equal to the amount charged by an eligible institution for an approved dual credit course.
  - Current dual-credit rate is 1/3 of KCTCS' tuition.



# STATISTICS

## Total Recipients:

Fall 2017 – 604

Spring 2018 – 745

Fall 2018 – 1,431

Spring 2019 – 1,503

**148% increase since Fall 2017**

## Spring 2019 demographics:

- 60.7% male
- 92.3% were 18-44
- 8.8% were minority
- Average scholarship was \$1,570

**Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship funds received by KCTCS students:**

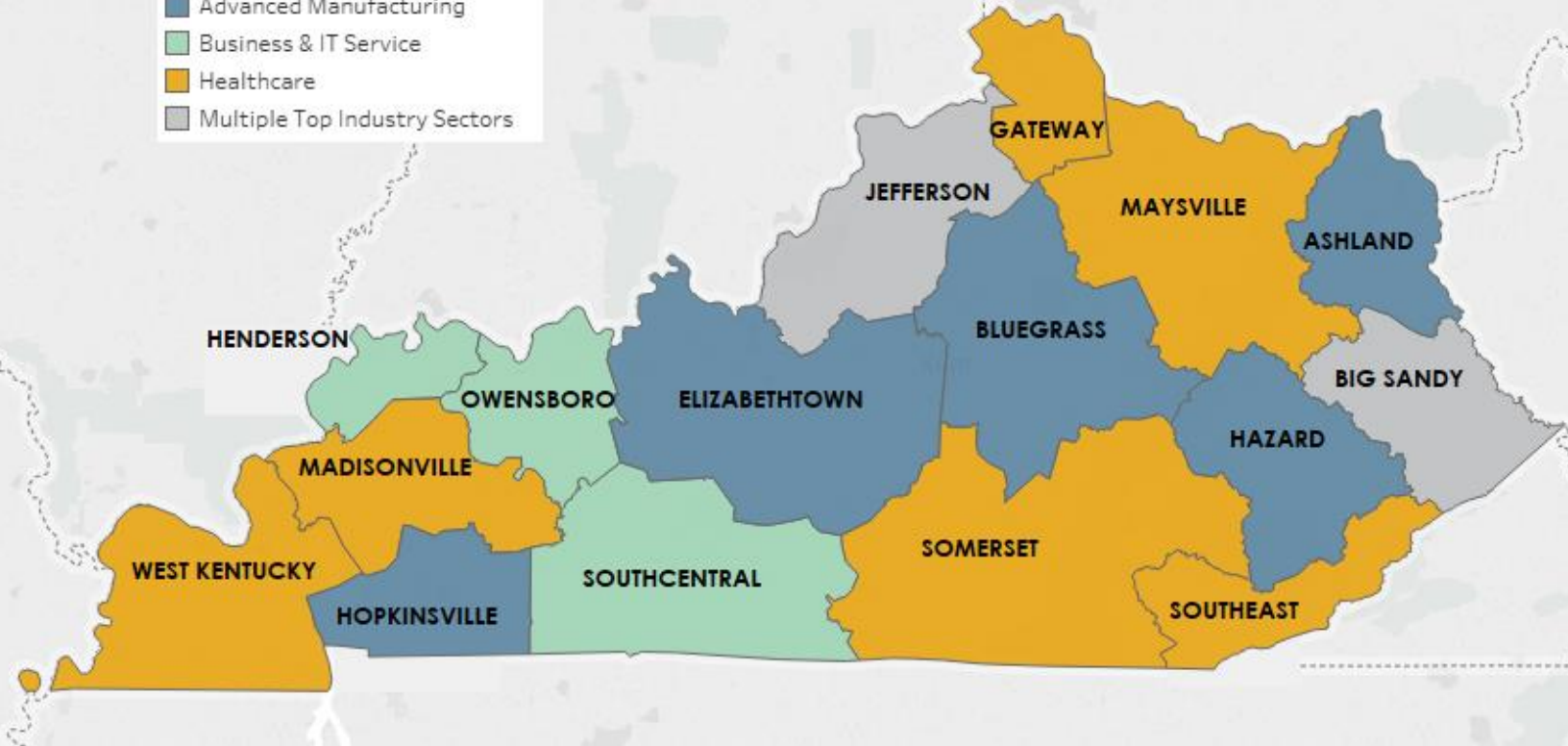
**\$2.3 million in 2017-18**

**\$4.5 million in 2018-19\***

## Work Ready Scholarship Recipients by Industry Sector: Spring 2019

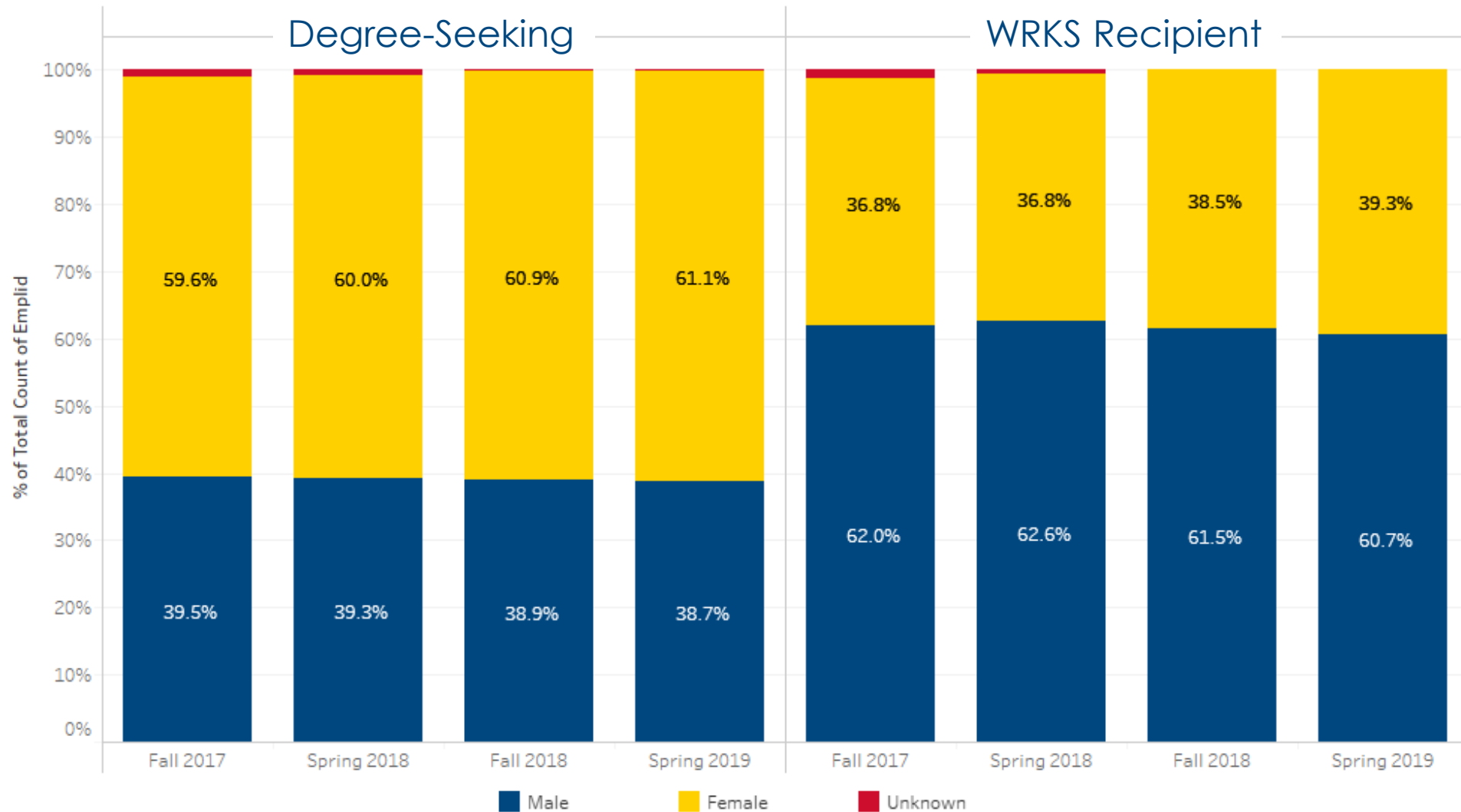
### Industry Sector Group

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Business & IT Service
- Healthcare
- Multiple Top Industry Sectors



# WRKS Recipients vs All Degree-Seeking Students

## Breakout by Gender and Term







# TYLER TANNER'S STORY

**“A 7-month investment in yourself can turn into a lifetime of opportunities!”**

- In January Tyler was in an auto mechanic job earning commission
- He joined Owensboro CTC's "Tech X" program and is on track to graduate in August
- Tech X initiative is a multi-craft technologist program offering hands-on training in a real-world, industrial environment
  - Develops those technical and analytical thinking skills that contribute to work flow and production output
  - Skills needed in most entry level manufacturing positions today
  - Two tracks – day and evening - that provide flexibility for a variety of non-traditional, time-challenged adults
- Two months into the Tech X program he got a job as a welder with Pittsburg Tank & Tower Group
- The WRKS allowed Tyler to take advantage of this opportunity
- **He is now on a career path making better, more consistent pay that allows him to provide for his family**



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# THE WRKS AT WORK

KCTCS is working on filling the pipeline but Business & Industry need to be involved as well.

In the last year, more than 2,600 KCTCS graduates were prepared to go pro in high paying, in-demand careers in advanced manufacturing with 400+ employers.

The Kentucky Manufacturing Going Pro Signing Day is a partnership between the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers (KAM) and KCTCS to highlight KCTCS graduates and their employers.

The WRKS promotes access to KCTCS...the success of graduates getting hired will lead to more students taking advantage of the WKRS because a career equals success.



# QUESTIONS?



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