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Wednesday, October 06, 2010

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By JOHN FRIEDLEIN

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During a summit on improving the nation's community colleges, President Barack Obama said U.S. Rep. Brett Guthrie, R-Bowling Green, "has been doing great work on this."

Guthrie, a Republican who serves Hardin County, provided input during the White House Summit on Community Colleges after meeting Monday with college presidents at Elizabethtown Community and Technical College.

After the meeting in Washington, Guthrie said a focus was on non-traditional students who already are in the work force but want to further their education. Ways to help these students — who may be busy single moms — could include offering credits for previous on-the-job training and compressing class schedules. Affordability for those looking to change careers is another issue.

Guthrie — a ranking member of the Subcommittee on Higher Education, Lifelong Learning, and Competitiveness — said implementation mostly would be on the state level, although the federal government could help by coordinating policy.

ETC President and CEO Thelma White attended Monday's local summit.

"We had a very good dialog," she said.

Educators are looking to increase the awareness of the role community colleges play in economic development and worker education, she said.

"In the near future there will be a great need to replenish the work force," she said. "The U.S. really needs to get more people into post-secondary education."

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At the White House Summit, Jill Biden — the wife of Vice President Joe Biden and a professor — said getting Americans back to work is the country's great challenge, according to the White House.

"And community colleges are critically important to preparing graduates for those jobs," she said.

John Friedlein can be reached at (270) 505-1746.

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Poll Title: Have you started decorating for Halloween yet?

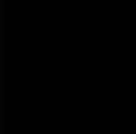
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10 2010