

PRICHARD COMMITTEE FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

2010 FUNDRAISING REPORT

A Brighter Future for Kentucky's Students

In August 2010, the Prichard Committee lost its founding executive director, Bob Sexton, to cancer. Bob had led the Committee since its creation in 1983, building the grassroots organization into a nationally recognized model of citizen engagement on behalf of improving education at all levels. News articles from across Kentucky and the nation underscored Bob's profound achievements and the impact of his decades-long passion to improve Kentucky schools, and the hundreds of letters we have received since his death continue to attest to it.

Even as the Prichard Committee continues to mourn Bob, his life serves as an inspiration. Thanks to his vision, we are spearheading a number of initiatives with profound implications for Kentucky's schools. They include:

■ **Top 20 by 2020**

Kentucky has made important progress toward reaching the nation's top tier of states on several indicators of education performance, but is flat or losing ground on others. The result: clear evidence that the state needs to work harder to deliver for its children and future.

Those findings are included in a report, produced and widely disseminated by the Prichard Committee, "Achieving the Top 20 by 2020: An Update." The recent report assesses the progress Kentucky has made since the committee set a "Top 20" goal for the state's schools two years ago. The original report, which will be updated every two years, identifies 20 indicators of academic performance, specifies Kentucky's ranking, and defines what level of performance is needed to propel the state to the top of the nation in student achievement.

■ **A Public Will Initiative**

With support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the James B. Hunt Institute, the committee is focusing on an initiative to build public will on behalf of better schools that can be sustained over time. This engagement work is using new and traditional communications and outreach efforts to encourage teachers and parents and business and civic leaders to become activist supporters of the newer, tougher standards that are to be Kentucky's classroom reality by the fall of 2011.

Our plans call for building on our established networks of partners from the Kentucky Education Association, the Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership, state agencies and other advocacy organizations to ensure sustained support among key audiences.

■ **Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership**

Since 1997, the Prichard Committee has trained more than 1,500 parents to navigate school culture and advocate for student achievement in our nationally acclaimed Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership (CIPL). In the last three years, we have held two full institutes annually and expect to hold another two in 2011. CIPL's benefits compound each year as graduates reach out to other parents through school-based projects, return to school to become teachers themselves, join the Prichard Committee as members and serve on local and state school boards.

■ **Pre-K Advocacy**

Garnering support for high-quality pre-school is a priority for the Prichard Committee. We know that 3- and 4-year olds who have access to this type of early childhood education are more likely to be successful in school and as adults, positively contribute to the economy and enhance civic life. Conversely, we know that children who attend high quality pre-school are less likely to depend on public assistance, become teenage parents, smoke, become incarcerated and need special education services.

Recognizing the need for widespread public support as a central strategy for promoting high-quality pre-school and ensuring it becomes an education policy emphasis, the Prichard Committee created the Business Leadership Council for Pre-K, a group of business and civic leaders who have committed to advocate for expanded quality preschool. The Committee organized a policy and planning group of more than 100 people who represent United Ways, public preschool programs, Head Start, child care resource and referral agencies, school superintendents, teachers, school boards, higher education and other early childhood advocates. We continue to work together to improve public awareness of and access to early childhood education.

■ **Math and Literacy Teaching**

Teachers in twelve Kentucky school districts are among the first in the nation to explore new ways to teach mathematics and literacy. Under another grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Prichard Committee is overseeing the testing and implementation of new teaching resources that have been developed by national experts to accelerate students' mastery of the core content of these subjects.

The breadth and scope of these current initiatives are a profound testament to Bob Sexton's legacy. The friends listed in these pages are, through their support, paying tribute both to the memory of Bob and his countless contributions and to our shared vision of educational excellence for Kentucky schools. We are so grateful to all of them.

We Offer Sincere Gratitude to Our Contributors in 2010

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Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
The Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr.
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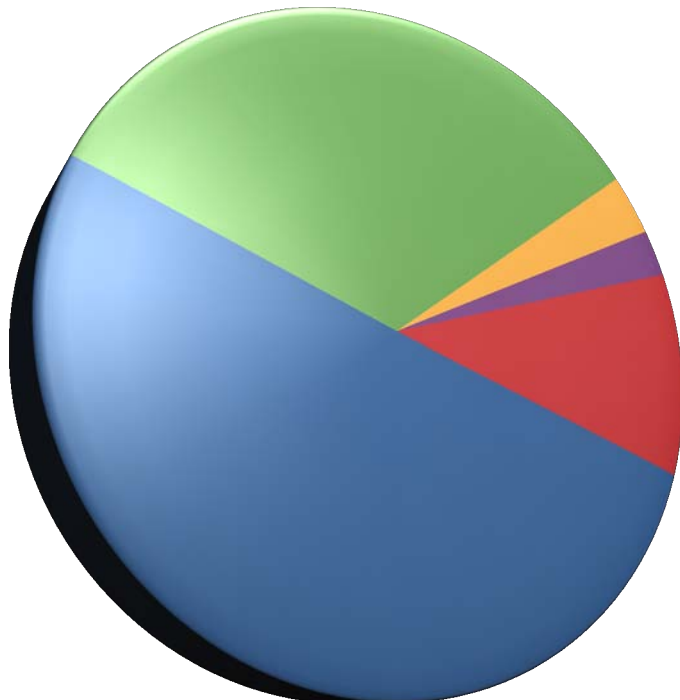
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2010 Prichard Committee Fundraising Totals



National Foundations	\$726,104
Kentucky Foundations & Corporations	483,150
Prichard Committee Members & Staff	44,072
Individuals	34,007

TOTAL **\$1,287,333**

Robert F. Sexton Legacy Fund **\$150,103**

WHO WE ARE

The Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence is an independent, non-profit, nonpartisan group of volunteers who have worked since 1983 to improve education. The group provides information and materials to educators, policymakers and citizens across the state on a variety of student achievement and public school issues. The committee is not affiliated with Kentucky state government. It is named for the late Edward F. Prichard, a lawyer from Paris, who in 1980 led a citizens' committee on improving Kentucky's universities.

ROBERT F. SEXTON, 1942-2010



“Getting results for all children cannot be left to educators alone.”

Gifts to the Robert F. Sexton Legacy Fund

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The Humana Foundation
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*Pictured: With Stu Silberman
at a Top 20 by 2020 pep
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Willa Michel.*

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