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Lt. Governor-Elect Will Lead Pep Rally To Encourage Students to Apply to College

College Application Week Part of Louisville's Commitment to Add 55,000 Degrees

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOUISVILLE (Nov. 11, 2011) – Lt. Gov.-Elect Jerry Abramson will lead a pep rally Monday morning to encourage thousands of high school students to set their sights on college as part of a weeklong effort sponsored by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority and Louisville's 55,000 Degrees initiative.

Gov. Steve Beshear has proclaimed the week of November 14 as College Application Week, a new statewide effort to encourage students, particularly those who don't have college graduates in their family, to take the initial steps to prepare for college.

Abramson will take part in the celebration at **9 a.m. Monday, Nov. 14 at Southern High School, 8620 Preston Highway.**

Similar events and informational sessions will be held at high schools and public libraries throughout the Louisville region to encourage students to fill out applications for college. Scores of schools across the state are participating in the first-year effort, which is funded by the federal College Access Challenge Grant program.

"College is an attainable goal for so many students and adults," Abramson said. "We want help more people set their sights on a college degree and take the first steps to achieve it."

Jefferson County's public and parochial high schools have signed pledges to encourage students to fill out college applications and take other steps to continue their education. School counselors and teachers will also help students with preparations including:

- Researching colleges and visiting campuses
- Seeking scholarships and financial assistance
- Gathering admissions materials (e.g. test scores, transcripts, recommendation letters, etc.)

College Application Week events and offerings aren't just for high school students, said Mary Gwen Wheeler, executive director of 55,000 Degrees, Louisville's commitment to add 55,000 more college graduates by 2020.

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“Louisville has more than 90,000 adults with college credits who haven’t earned their degrees,” Wheeler said. “Now is a great time to go back to school and get the degree that can help you get a better job and a more rewarding life.”

Throughout the week, public libraries in Louisville and Southern Indiana will host informational sessions to help would-be college students learn more about applying for college. For a list of dates, times and locations and other information about College Application Week, go to 55000degrees.org. Adults can also get information about going to college from the KentuckianaWorks College Access Center (mykcac.org) and Adult and Continuing Education (workforcetraining4u.com).

On Monday night at 9 p.m., Kentucky Educational Television will air **Education Matters: From Student to Graduate**, a show examining how Kentucky schools and communities are encouraging young people to persevere to graduation while striving to help all Kentucky students find the pathway to a successful, fulfilling life. One of the videotaped segments of the program features LEEP (Louisville Education and Employment Partnership) and Delquan Dorsey, executive director of the Governor’s Office of Minority Empowerment who was helped by that program.

For more information on College Application Week, go to www.kheaa.com.