

AACR 2

Office of the President
January 23, 2007

Members, Board of Trustees:

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INSTITUTE FOR WORKPLACE INNOVATION

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of the Institute for Workplace Innovation in the College of Social Work.

Background: Over the past three decades, the United States has witnessed major shifts in the demographic landscape of the labor force. As a result, a growing number of workers report strain integrating the often competing demands of life on and off the job, while a growing number of employers report difficulty in recruiting and retaining quality employees.

The proposed institute will enhance workplace productivity in the changing economy by providing employees with knowledge and opportunities related to innovative practices that enable the creation of quality work environments while ensuring a balance between employee commitment to work and family. The Institute for Workplace Innovation is committed to engaging employers in the adoption, implementation, and utilization of innovative workplace solutions which benefit employees and employers; developing a regionally based research agenda focused on the workforce and economy in the 21st century; and affecting public discussion about the employer, employee, and economic benefits associated with innovative workplace options.

The University of Kentucky will be the first land-grant university in the United States to establish an institute that responds to its state's current economic and workforce development concerns by engaging employers in adopting, implanting, and utilizing innovative workplace options.

The proposal has been reviewed and recommended by the Senate Committee on Academic Organization and Structure and the Senate Council. It is recommended for approval by the University Senate. The Provost of the university supports this recommendation.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____