

COMMONWEALTH CONNECTION

Services Newsletter II

September 2018

Commonwealth Educational Opportunity Center

Welcome to the CEOC!

Did you know?:

That the CEOC can help you go to college, vocational/technical school, help you transfer to a college or university or get your GED?

That the CEOC can help you find the resources — federal and state grants, scholarships and partner agency resources to help you pay for training?

That the CEOC has counselors who cover 36 counties in Eastern Kentucky to meet with you to discuss your goals and assist you in reaching those goals?

OUR SERVICES ARE **FREE!**



FINANCIAL AID COUNSELORS ON HALLOWEEN.

It's Almost Financial Aid Season

It is almost time for Financial Aid Season to begin. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) goes online at midnight on October 1, 2018. You should access 2019-2020 FAFSA at www.fafsa.gov. (Any other site for the FAFSA can require you to pay for what should be free.) Many of our current students have been known to conduct FAFSA parties beginning at midnight to ensure that they do not miss out on other grant monies based on PELL (the federal grant) eligibility. The Commonwealth Educational Opportunity Center (CEOC) will be conducting FAFSA workshops throughout October and November.

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What Can the CEOC Do For You?

On the following pages you will read about the various programs offered by federal, state and local agencies that assist adults with college attainment. CEOC provides programs and partners with the agencies to make sure you have the resources available to succeed.

We are a clearinghouse of resource referrals to help make your post-secondary training a positive experience. Call us to ask about the many opportunities available to you as an adult enrolling for the first time, transferring to another institution or re-enrolling to complete your degree.



Remember!

When you file your 2019/2020 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) you should use 2017 tax information!

Your FSAID allows you to sign your FAFSA immediately!

If you are a dependent student your parent needs a FSAID also.

FSAID

Every student plus one of their parents will need to create a FSA ID. This is a unique username and password for you to complete your financial aid application.

It is imperative that you be very careful creating your FSA ID. Begin by going to [FSAID.gov](https://fsaid.gov), select create FSAID, enter your personal information, then you get to fill in your challenge/reset questions. This is where you need to be extra careful. Choose questions that have obvious answers that will never change. For example, your father's middle name, or your mother's maiden name, these will never change. However, your best friend, your boyfriend, or your favorite hobby, these things can and most likely will change. In a year will you remember who your best friend was the day you created this? So chose your answers wisely.

Also, you will have the opportunity to enter your cell phone number and email as another reset option, however, you must verify those at the end of the FSA ID creation process.

Lastly, put this information in a safe place, you will need these every year ++you are in school.

If you are not sure if you are a dependent or you are independent contact your CEOC counselor!

Heather Quinn, College Access Counselor

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Opportunity YOU!

Get the Skills YOU need to succeed!

The Opportunity YOU! program is a FREE BLACKBOARD learning environment that enables the student to learn how to use online programs.

Opportunity YOU! allows the pre-college student, who may be unfamiliar with the technicalities of online learning, to become knowledgeable and confident in a online learning environment before becoming enrolled in college courses. Participants are supported by team partners such as CEOC, and AOKY Coordinator. For more information contact: Lucy Langdon at llangdon0002@kctcs.edu.

CEOC just returned from our annual retreat, refreshed with new partnerships , new information and resources for you, and new goals that will enhance our services to you, our participants! Thank you to our presenters:

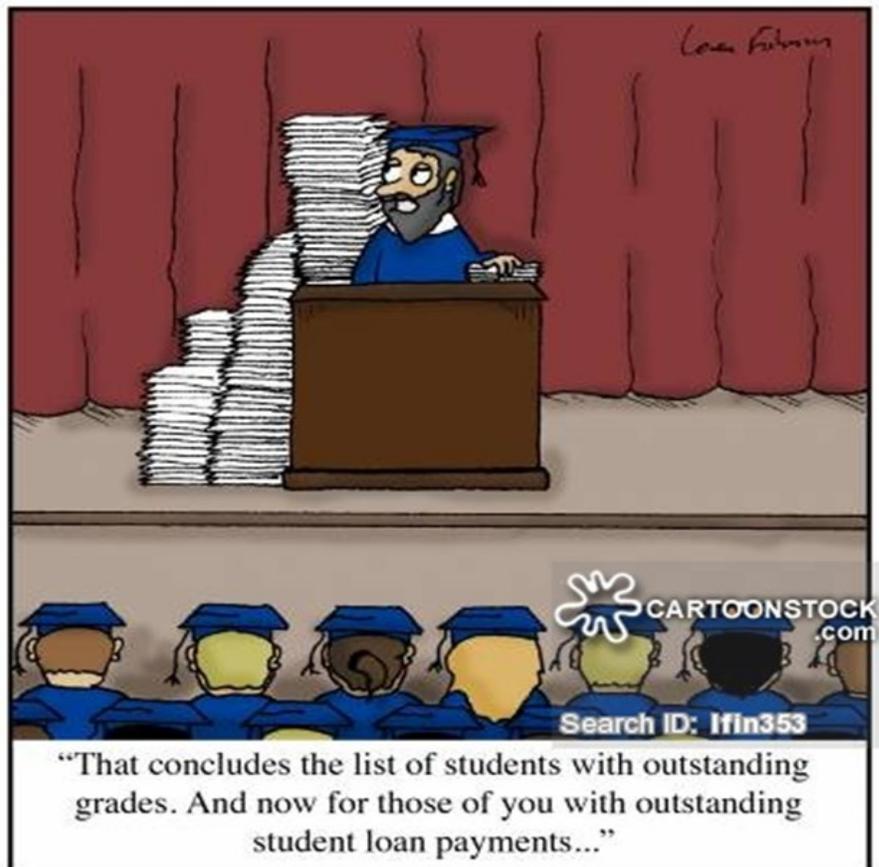
Kentucky Reentry, Veterans Outreach, WIOA, Vocational Rehabilitation (PACE), Probation/Parole and SKillsU!

Financial Literacy101

All CEOC participants receive a FREE financial literacy program. Financial Literacy101 is a online interactive program designed to enhance the financial knowledge and aptitude of the participant.

Your CEOC counselor will enroll you into the program where you can work at your own pace learning about various financial platforms such as:

Financial Aid/Student Loans	Credit Card Debt Relief
Home/Car Buying	Loan Default Resolution
Insurance	Work Place Transition
Credit Building	



OUR TEAM!



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[Cassandra Sexton ,College Access Counselor](#) (606) 487-3190

Perry, Knott, Leslie, Breathitt, Lee, Owsley

If you are planning to go to school, you need
CEOC on *your* team! FREE Service!

Meet with a CEOC
Counselor Today!
Give us a call for
more information
about our services.

Financial Aid

Admissions

Student Loans

Career Assessment

GED/ACT payment as-
sistance

Veteran's Assistance

Financial Aid Support
Groups

Counselors post their monthly
calendars for your convenience.
View them [here](#)

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@CEOC_KY

What You Should Know

The [VERIFICATION](#) Process is not as daunting as it may seem. Many students are selected by the Federal Department of Education as well as by the institution for verification. It does not mean you have done anything wrong. It means that certain data on your FAFSA must be verified to reflect an accurate picture of your family household and financial status. Your EFC and awards may be adjusted according to the findings and just may be in your favor. Most importantly [VERIFICATION](#) can not be avoided. If you are selected, we will help you through the entire process. Call us!

IRS FORM 4506-T

You may be asked to provide the financial aid office with a copy of a tax transcript even though you did not file a tax form.

If so, you will need to fill out the IRS Form 4506-T.

By filling out and submitting this form, which is required, you will receive a letter from the IRS stating that you did not file a tax return for the year in question.

It's ok, many folks have to do this. CEOC is here to help! Give us a call!

irs.gov

Work Ready Scholarship

Last year 15.9 million had been earmarked for the Work Ready scholarship but only 2.1 million was used. Gov. Matt Bevin signed an executive order July 11 2018, expanding the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship to include students enrolled in certificate, diploma and associate of applied science degree in the state's top five high-demand workforce sectors including *Advanced Manufacturing, Business and IT, Construction Trades, Healthcare, Transportation and Logistics at Kentucky Universities and all KCTCS schools.*

Additionally, the scholarship will now be available for high school students for dual credit career and technical education courses in pathways in Kentucky's top five high-demand sectors leading to industry-recognized certifications.

The greatest aspect of the new changes in the scholarship is that the scholarship can now be used for high school students interested in pursuing careers in the five high-demand sectors. Adults without a high school diploma who wish to pursue their career certification can also utilize the scholarship for a certification or associate of applied science degree in tandem with obtaining a GED through the Accelerating Opportunity Kentucky program offered through the Kentucky Community and Technical College System. The max amount of scholarship awarded per year is \$3900 per year². You can learn more about the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship through helpwantedky.com, including eligibility requirements, participating colleges and universities, and certificates, diplomas and degrees available in each of the five industries.

Matthew Donovan, TRIO Academic Coordinator

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NEWS and EVENTS

LET'S GET EXCITED!

SkillsU

As of July 1, 2018, Kentucky Adult Education is now SKILLS U. Kentucky Skills U!

Kentucky Skills U provide FREE Education services in each of Kentucky's 120 counties. Any adult 18 years and older can receive services in their county.

Skills U offers help with:

- * Family Literacy
- * English as a second language
- * National Career Readiness certificates
- * Workplace Soft Skills
- * Transitions to Postsecondary Education
- * Earning the GED



Kyae.ky.gov

Along with a name change, Kentucky Skills U has two new positions. A Career Navigator and Data and Assessment Analysis have been added to program staff statewide. The Career Navigator helps students with resumes, mock interviews, college tours and referring to other agencies in the area. Data and Assessment Analysis helps proctor various assessments that Skills U have to offer.

CEOC has a long history of partnering with Kentucky Skills U. We can help you find the nearest Kentucky Skills U in your area. Contact us today!

Rhonda Sloan, College Access Counselor

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SUCCESS **Spotlight!**

Join the Commonwealth Educational Opportunity Center in celebrating the first graduating class of the *Prospects for a Future Program!*

Prospects For A Future Program is designed to assist inmates to become enrolled in post-secondary education upon release. CEOC donated five computers for use while KRRJ provides and maintains internet connection.

The CEOC counselor completes the pre-admissions requirements including, FAFSA, Admissions Applications, Verification, and gathers High School and GED Transcripts. These services allow the participants to be eligible to complete the final stages of placement testing and enroll in classes upon release from incarceration.

Participants enroll in online courses such as financial literacy, career pathway exploration, life skills, work place transition, resume and job search and individual learning plans.

Although the pilot class began with eight participants, it did decrease due to transfers and releases. Yet, there are three successful *Prospects for a Future* graduates! Valerie Causey, Jessica Begley, and Tiffany Buckner all from Kentucky River Regional Jail.

Myself, I have a problem completing anything, I am glad I got chosen to do it and I completed it.

- Buckner

The inaugural class has since been released and are all enrolled in degree seeking programs at Hazard Community and Technical College.

“I want to finish what I started. I want to start college classes and get a degree, maybe do something in substance abuse and reach out to other women in need.”



- Causey

CEOC and KRRJ plan to expand the program to include a class of male inmates. The new classes are scheduled to begin in September. Kentucky River Regional Jail and CEOC hope to enroll 20 new students in the next *Prospects for a Future* class. If you are interested in partnering with CEOC and KRRJ in this endeavor, please contact

Tammy Meredith-Castle, Assistant Project Director at t.castle@moreheadstate.edu.

“It made me feel special. It made me feel like I can achieve something”

- Begley

Cassandra Sexton,
College Access Counselor
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FELONY EXPUNGEMENT

Don't let a felony hold you back from having a career you have always wanted. Learn more about the felony expungement process in Kentucky. Certain Class D felony convictions can be expunged as a result of the 2016 General Assembly passing House Bill 40. This bill creates a process that permits a defendant to file an application to have his or her conviction expunged. If the court grants the application, the original judgment will be vacated and the charges dismissed.

The first step is to complete the expungement certification process. State law requires every petition for expungement in Kentucky to include a certificate of eligibility for expungement. Individuals who wish to have their criminal records (charges/cases) expunged must complete the expungement certification process to determine if they are eligible for expungement. An important point to be aware of is that an application cannot be filed sooner than five years after completion of person's probation or parole and/or a person sentence is served out. The cost for expungement certification is forty dollars.

If the expungement is eligible, an individual will need to complete the AOC legal form Application to Vacate and Expunge Felony Conviction and file it with the Office of the Circuit Court Clerk in the county where the conviction transpired. The filing fee for a felony expungement motion is five hundred dollars. (there is some financial aid available). If the prosecutor objects to the expungement within 60 days, the court will schedule a hearing and the circuit court clerk will send notice of the hearing. If the prosecutor does not object, the court may issue an order without a hearing. If the conviction is vacated and expunged, an order will be sent to the agencies listed on the motion. The court and all agencies will expunge their records so that information does not appear on official state-performed background checks.

For additional information about felony expungement contact [Legal Aid of the Bluegrass](#). Attend an expungement information event to get more information about the expungement law, obtain a copy of your criminal record, and discuss your case with a criminal attorney. Visit a local [Reentry](#) council meeting or meet with your CEOC counselor for more information.

Sherrie Chapman, TRIO Academic Coordinator

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CEOC on FACEBOOK fb.me/ceocky

On our Commonwealth Educational Opportunity Center FACEBOOK page you will find Scholarships, financial aid updates, College and University programming, counselor locations and so much more! You're going to LIKE US!

FAFSA TIPS

- \$ The FAFSA should be completed to determine how much PELL eligibility you can qualify for. It can be necessary for additional federal and state grants as well as some scholarships.
- \$ Pell eligibility is based primarily on household size, number of students in college and family income for 2017. There are factors that can also impact eligibility for PELL such as homelessness, foster care, veteran's status and others.
- \$ The student (and a parent, if necessary) must have an FSA ID to sign the FAFSA electronically and to access the IRS Data Retrieval tool.
- \$ For the 2019-2020 FAFSA you will use the 2017 Federal tax return if you (or your parents, if necessary) filed taxes. You will also need to have records of other income received during the 2017 tax year. You (or your parent) may be required to report such income on the FAFSA.
- \$ Men, you will need to be registered with Selective Service to be eligible to receive financial aid.
- \$ High School Seniors, even if you are receiving dual credit from another college or university, you are still considered a "Never attended college and 1st year undergraduate." You must have graduated from high school to be considered a college student.
- \$ High School Seniors, please remember to mark "1st bachelor's degree" or an "associate degree." Do not mark "Teaching credential," "Graduate or professional degree," or "other/undecided." Marking one of these categories will limit you to student loans only.
- \$ If you live with a parent, you are not in guardianship. Guardianship occurs when you are no longer in the custody of a parent or parents and the court has assigned someone else to take care of you legally.
- \$ Please remember to check your Student Aid Report (SAR) 3-4 days after completing the FAFSA. The SAR will indicate if there are issues with the FAFSA, such as incorrect social security number, incorrect birth date, etc. The SAR will also indicate if you have been selected for verification. If you have been selected for verification, you will be required to provide the college/university financial aid office additional financial documents before a financial aid award letter will be put together for you.
- \$ If there has been a decrease in income from 2017 to 2018, you may be eligible to seek a professional judgement from the financial aid office at the college/university that you plan to attend.

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