



EOC HAPPENINGS

Southwestern Pennsylvania

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A NEWSLETTER BY PENN STATE'S EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY CENTERS OF SWPA

May 2009



ENROLLED!

Congratulations EOC Enrollees!!!

Butler County Community College

Alisa Law

California University of Pennsylvania

Lisa Domankos
Shayne Meyers

Community College of Allegheny County

Jakeya Allen
Anissa Anderson
Terrance Dtrieville
Lisa Filippi
Jada Johnson
Justine Kubiak
Tania Marchman
Charlynn Moore
Alan Parsons
Sandra Schmidt
Jason Scimio
Douglas Smith, II

Community College of Allegheny County – Boyce

Tina D'Alessandro
Dana McNally
Denise Miller

Community College of Allegheny County – North

Charles Adkins

Community College of Allegheny County – South

James Abraham
Dean Bradley
Jason Donaldson
Nicholas Fusco
Joshua Hartung
Robert Helster
Adam Kone
Christopher Lyons
Derrick Middlebrook
Amanda Nolder
Michael O'Connor
Brian Patter
Daniel Pottmyer
Archie Robinson
Robert Seeley

Troy Thompson
Dominic Yount

Community College of Beaver County

Rosilee Katekovich

Erie Business Center

Tayron Cargile

Lawrence County Vo-Tech of Practical Nursing

Andrea Coleman

Lenape AVTS Practical Nursing

Robert Cramer
Stephanie Van Tine

Penn State Greater Allegheny

Jeremy Woelke

Penn State New Kensington

Tajma Juklo

Penn State Fayette

Robert Gallagher
Marianne Howell
Donna Krull
Penny Scott
LaKayla Truly
Tina Blaney
Jennifer Blazek

Strayer University – Washington

Jamey McKee

University of Pittsburgh

Stacy Stary

Westmoreland County Community College

Lennie Anderson
Dorian Arms
Justin Harvilla
Sierra Jordan
Denise McCracken
Nicole Munsch
John Sarosi
Christine Sopko
Michelle Schrock
Keith Starr



Shower Yourself with Financial Aid Facts

Pell Grant Increase

The maximum Federal Pell Grant award for the 2009-2010 award year will be \$5,350, which is an increase of \$619 from the 2008-2009 award year.

Did you Know...?

If you have two or more students who are attending or will be attending college, you can use the FAFSA Confirmation Screen to "complete another FAFSA with the parental information already imported." At the end of the FAFSA you have the option to begin a FAFSA for another child without having to input all of your information again. Just click on the button when it asks if you would like to complete a FAFSA for another student and it will automatically pre-fill the FAFSA form for you.

Friends Don't let Friends Co-Sign Loans

Never co-sign an Alternative Student Loan for a friend! You never know what can happen, and you could be stuck with the bill! Remember, co-signing is not the same as providing a reference. Co-signing makes you responsible for the loan debt. A reference provides information on the behalf of the person applying for the loan.

Are You a Dislocated Worker?

According to U.S. labor statutes, a dislocated worker is an individual who:

1. has been laid off or terminated, or received notice of termination or lay off and is unlikely to return to previous industry of occupation,
2. has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or lay off, as a result of permanent closure of, or substantial layoff at a plant or facility,
3. was self-employed and now unemployed because of a natural disaster,
4. was self-employed (including farmer, rancher, or fisherman), but is unemployed as a result of general economic conditions in the community in which he or she resides or because of a natural disaster, or
5. is a displaced homemaker.

If you fall under any of these categories, you are eligible to attend certain postsecondary programs at a reduced or free tuition.

Call the EOC at 1-888-EOC-SWPA

(1-888-362-7972) for more information.

Ready. Set.
Apply. **Enroll.**

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EDUCATIONAL
OPPORTUNITY CENTERS

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Financial Aid Facts *continued from front page* Financial Aid Provisions for Homeless Youth

Can unaccompanied youth apply for federal financial aid (through the FAFSA) without providing information about their parent's income and their parent's signature? Answer: With advocacy, "yes." Under the Higher Education Opportunity Act, youth who meet the definition of "independent student" can apply for federal aid without parental information or signature. To be considered independent, a student must be an orphan, a ward of the court, a veteran, a graduate student, married, or have a dependent. A financial aid administrator at a college can also designate a student as independent due to "other unusual circumstances." Homelessness or separation from parents can be considered an unusual circumstance.

McKinney-Vento liaisons and unaccompanied youth have worked with financial administrators to have unaccompanied youth be designated as independent. You can also indicate your status as an unaccompanied youth on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Contact the financial aid administrator at the college of your choice for more information or download "*Legal Tools to End Youth Homelessness*" from http://www.serve.org/nche/downloads/nlchp_legal_tools.pdf

In the Spotlight

University of Pittsburgh College of General Studies

If you have ever thought about attending the University of Pittsburgh, but were intimidated by the "big university" atmosphere, you should take time to learn more about the College of General Studies (CGS). As the "small college in the large university," CGS has been the region's leading provider of adult education for more than fifty years and is committed to providing nontraditional students with the academic resources they need to achieve their personal and professional goals. Through CGS, adult learners can access Pitt's world-class faculty, programs, and facilities. With flexible scheduling, online offerings, and specialized student support services, CGS serves adult students who

seek distinctive programs and unique lifelong learning opportunities.

Located alongside the McCarl Center for Non-Traditional Student Success on the fourth floor of the Cathedral of Learning in Oakland, CGS offers the flexibility to earn your degree in a format that suits your needs. CGS offers a variety of majors, minors, and certificates through both online and traditional courses. The CGS courses are offered on weekdays, evenings, and Saturdays at four convenient locations: Oakland, Butler, Monroeville, and Mt. Lebanon.



YOUR AMBITION MEETS OUR TRADITION THE COLLEGE OF GENERAL STUDIES PRESENTS "PATHWAYS AT PITT"

Imagine completing all of your CGS application materials, including your Federal Application for Financial Aid (FAFSA) in just a few hours—and with expert guidance from the CGS staff! At CGS, we know that the college application process can be both time consuming and confusing. That's why we've created *Pathways at Pitt*, a program designed to provide step-by-step guidance through the entire process. Participants in *Pathways at Pitt* will have the opportunity to do the following:

1. Complete the CGS application for admission
2. Receive an evaluation of any prior coursework to see which credits will transfer to CGS
3. Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) with step-by-step guidance from a financial aid representative
4. Receive additional information about the degree programs, resources, and extracurricular activities that CGS has to offer

To register for *Pathways at Pitt*, call 412-624-6600 or e-mail cgs@pitt.edu.

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

The Pennsylvania State University is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. It is the policy of the University to maintain an academic and work environment free of discrimination, including harassment. The Pennsylvania State University prohibits discrimination and harassment against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status. Discrimination or harassment against faculty, staff, or students will not be tolerated at The Pennsylvania State University. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to the Affirmative Action Director, The Pennsylvania State University, 328 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802-5901; Tel 814-865-4700/V, 814-863-1150/TTY. U Ed. OVP 09-37

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