

EOC Newsletter

EOC Provides the Following FREE Services:

- Personal, Career and Academic Advising
- College Planning and Selection
- Assistance in Completing College Admission Applications
- Assistance in Completing the FAFSA
- Guidance to a GED Program
- Financial/Economic Literacy Information
- Defaulted Student Loan Counseling
- Guidance on Scholarship Searches

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“Happy Endings” by Dzevad Tahirovic

I am originally from Bosnia. Due to the war in my country I fled the country in 1991. I first went to Germany. My family followed; my parents and my sisters. I come from a very close knit family. In 1993, I went from Germany to the Netherlands. I studied in Bosnia as a construction technician. I also worked in the Netherlands.

I wanted to move to the United States. In 2001, I left the Netherlands and moved to Kansas City. My family followed.

I am married with two children ages 10 and 8 years old. Due to my multiple relocations, I am able to speak five languages.

I knew that I wanted to go to college when I came to the United States. I wanted to study engineering. Someone told me about a place in Kansas City where they could assist you with your financial aid. The name of the agency was the Educational Opportunity Center. I first met Mr. Jan Rosenblum in May of 2002. I decided I would attend Maple Woods Community College first and get my Associate's degree. Both my sister and I came in to meet with Mr. Rosenblum. We found him to be very helpful and knowledgeable

about financial aid.

While I was attending school, I was also working full time. Mr. Rosenblum was a good motivator and encouraged me that I could do it. I finished my Associate's degree at Maple Woods. From 2006-2008, I stopped attending so I could help with my immediate family, including my parents.

I decided to attend UMKC in 2008 for civil engineering. I will be completing my Bachelor of Science Degree in December 2012. I want to thank Mr. Rosenblum for his support and encouragement in helping me. I also want to thank my family for their support. I look forward to my future.



“Measuring Success” by Dominique Mitchell

Success can be measured in a number of ways. I have received a lot of assistance to get where I am today. When I was in high school I was not an ordinary student but a very self-sufficient student who had to assume the role of an adult. I am not where I am today solely because of what I've done, but also because of the assistance

that I've obtained along the way. During my high school years I worked full time, paid bills and went to school. Misty Chandler and Karen Goose, who were at the time, Metropolitan Community College (MCC) recruiters that came to North Kansas City High School (NKCHS) and made me their “pet project”. These ladies extended their hands and hearts to make sure I furthered my education. MCC and NKCHS counselors and teachers

motivated me to learn about scholarships that were available not only through my high school but also through MCC. Through their sincere efforts, advice, encouragement and mentoring I was able to gain valuable information that reassured me that a college education and my goals were indeed within my reach.

Before the end of my senior year, I earned a Leadership Grant (continued on page 3)



“Pell Grant

eligibility has been reduced to 12 full-time semesters or the equivalent”



Director's Corner

Dear EOC Participants, Supporters and Collaborators,

I would like to thank all of you for your continued support. The Kansas City EOC has successfully served area residents since 1979. It is with great pleasure, that I inform you that the project has received funding for another five years!

As the economy struggles to improve and as the demand for

highly skilled workers increases, the need for the services provided at the EOC is greater than ever.

EOC staff continue to work diligently at staying up-to-date with Federal financial aid regulations and the availability of other educational funding sources. In addition, great effort is put forth in continuing, as well as establishing, strong collaborations with other community agencies, educational institutions, and

organizations in the community. A strong referral network ensures the EOC participants receive the services necessary to meet their educational and career goals.

I and the EOC staff are proud of our EOC participants' many accomplishments and successes! We look forward to serving many more individuals over the next five years.

Sincerely, *Jennifer Walk*

Changes to Federal Student Aid

The recently enacted Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 creates a number of noteworthy changes to federal student aid programs—most of which will go into effect during the 2012-13 school year (July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013).

Here is a summary of the major changes:

✓ **Eligibility of Students Without a High School Diploma.** Students enrolling in postsecondary education for the first time on or after July 1, 2012, must have either a high school diploma, a GED, or have been home schooled in order to be eligible for federal student aid. In the past, students could become eligible for federal student aid by passing an approved test or completing at least six credit hours or 225 clock hours of postsecondary education.

✓ **Expected Family Contribution (EFC).** The EFC is a calculation used by the federal government to determine a student's federal student aid eligibility. (The lower the student's EFC, the higher the student's federal student aid eligibility.) For the 2012-13 school year, students will automatically qualify for an EFC of zero if their family income does not exceed \$23,000—a reduction from the previous maximum income of \$32,000.

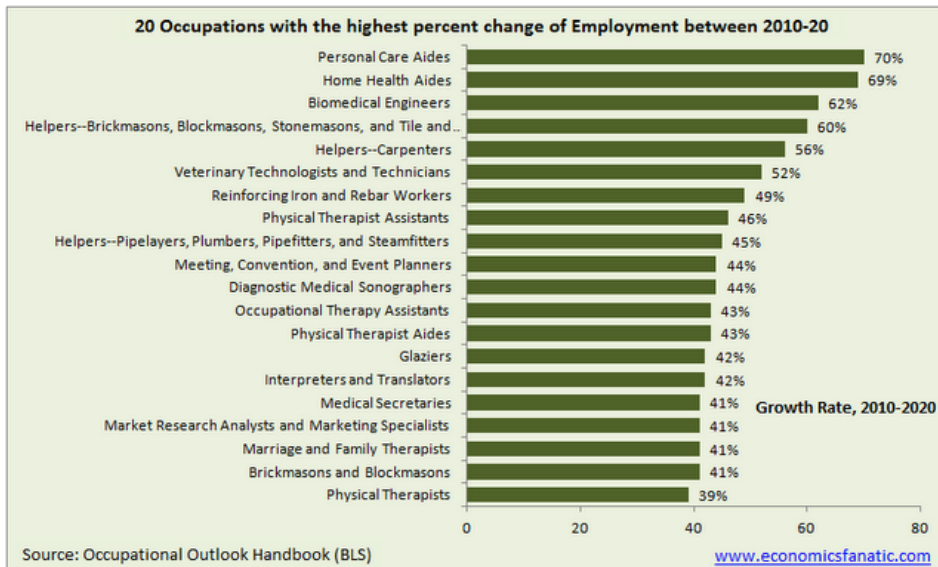
✓ **Direct Student Loan Changes.** Direct Subsidized loans will not be eligible for an interest subsidy during the six-month grace period. All subsidized loans made to undergraduate students on or after July 1, 2012 will be responsible for the interest that accrues while the loan is in the grace period. Graduate and professional students are no longer eligible to receive subsidized loans.

✓ **Federal Pell Grant Program—Duration of Eligibility.** The duration of eligibility has been reduced from the equivalent of 18 full-time semesters to the equivalent of 12 full-time semesters. Equivalency is calculated by adding the percentage of Pell received each year to determine if the amount exceeds 600%.

Visit www.studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/recentChangesSA.jsp for complete details on these changes.

✓ **Satisfactory Academic Progress** Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) regulations have forced schools to incorporate stricter SAP policies. Failure to meet SAP can negatively effect financial aid eligibility. It is important to know your school's SAP guidelines.

Fastest Growing Occupations (2010-2020) in the U.S.



“Success, in my opinion, is measured by the lessons you’ve learned in life”

Measuring Success

through MCC. This grant was awarded to students who were not eligible to receive federal financial aid. Another requirement was to show leadership. I participated in numerous activities including debate, DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America), basketball and community service. As time went on, the Full Employment Council (FEC) helped me to find a job and purchase books for college. I

began working with Jennifer Walk at the Educational Opportunity Center a year after I graduated high school. She assists me each year with completing my Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and referred me to the Kansas City, Missouri Opportunity Scholarship Fund from The Greater Kansas City Community Foundation. I was awarded the renewable scholarship which assists me with books, supplies, and tuition.

Though my educational journey has been a non-traditional one, I was able to overcome many obstacles and eventually complete an Associate’s degree through MCC. I am currently pursuing my Bachelor’s degree in Information Technology and Business. I plan to go on to receive my Master’s and PHD degrees in the future. Overall, success, in my opinion, is measured by the lessons you’ve learned in life.

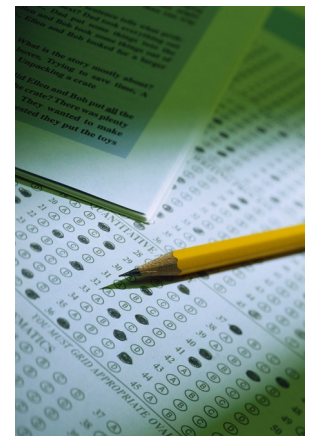
Changes Coming to the GED Test

On January 1, 2014 a new GED test will be implemented. The new test, aligned with Common Core State Standards, will focus on college and career readiness. Test scores on any subject area of the current version will NOT transfer to the new test. Therefore, anyone who has not passed all of the subject areas of the current version will have to

retake all subject areas beginning Jan., 2014. In addition, the 2014 version will only be offered as a computer-based test; the paper and pencil version will no longer be available. Test takers will still have to go to an official testing center; it will not be offered online. The new version will have two writing components in social studies and literacy which will

have to be typed within a time limit. Currently, in Missouri, it costs \$40.00 to apply for and take the GED test. The cost of the new 2014 version is expected to increase to an estimated \$120.00.

dese.mo.gov/divcareer/ged_index.htm
MaryvilleDailyForum.com



Tomorrow's Success Depends on Today's Choices!



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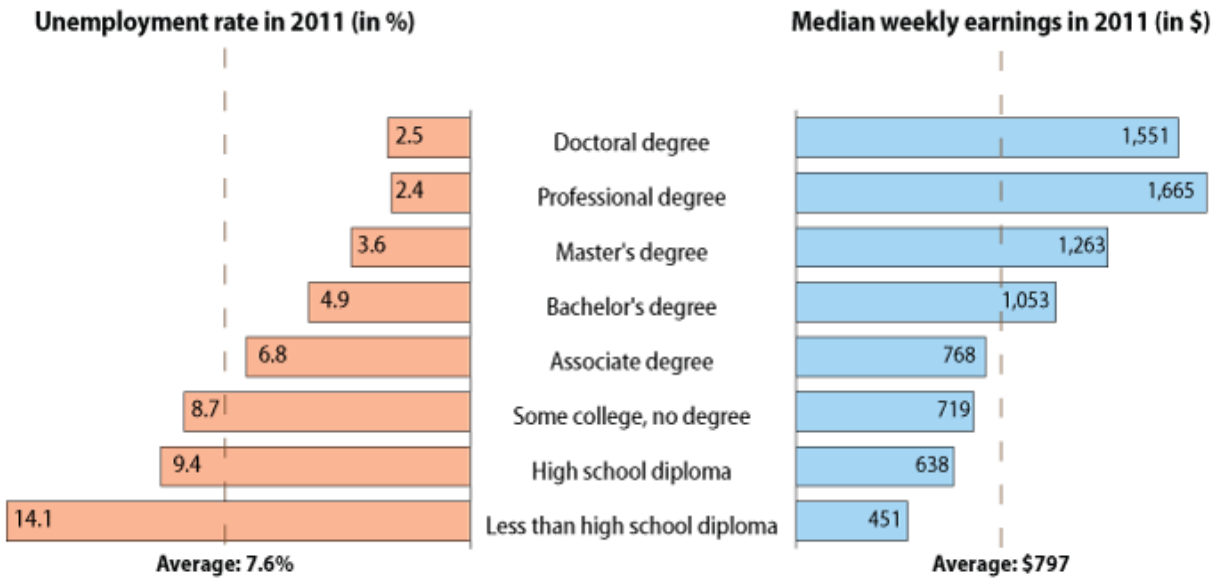
The Kansas City Educational Opportunity Center is a 100% federally-funded TRIO program (\$460,406) administered by the Metropolitan Community College. EOC has been serving target area residents since 1979 and is one of only three EOC programs in Missouri. Annually, over 2500 individuals receive services provided by the EOC; at least two-thirds of who are low-income and potential first generation college students. The primary purpose of Educational Opportunity Centers is to increase the number of adults entering into a postsecondary education program by disseminating information on the educational and financial aid opportunities available. EOC counselors and academic advisors provide one-on-one services to EOC participants to assist them in achieving their educational and career goals. In addition, EOC staff conduct presentations on educational and financial aid opportunities available and on the services offered by the program to community agencies, organization, school, churches, etc. If you would like to schedule an individual appointment or setup a presentation please call 816-604-4400.

<http://www.mckkc.edu/services/eoc/overview/eoc.asp>

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/trioeoc/index.html>



Education Pays



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey