

EOC Newsletter

Inside this issue:

Project Outcomes	2
Changes to 2017-2018 FAFSA	2
Free ACT Test Prep	3
New FSA ID	3
About EOC	4
Scholarship Websites & Search Tips	4



EOC Scholarship Fundraiser

At the beginning of the 2015-2016 academic year, the EOC Advisory Board voted to establish a scholarship fund for students who utilize EOC services. To raise money for this fund, EOC staff & advisory board members organized a jewelry party fundraiser, hosted by Silpada Jewelry associate, Jodi Foster.

A percentage of the proceeds from the fundraiser were donated to the scholarship fund. Many of the EOC's social service agency partners stopped by, as well as MCC staff and faculty members. Overall, it was a success with a great turnout. The EOC will be hosting more fundraisers in the upcoming months. Details about these events can be found on the EOC's Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/eoc.kcmo>

Tax deductible donations to the scholarship fund can be made online at: <http://www.razoo.com/us/story/Eocfund>

For more information about the EOC Scholarship application, call the EOC office at 816-604-4409.

FREE Services Include:

- Academic Advising
- Career Counseling
- College Admission Application Completion
- FAFSA Completion
- Financial Literacy Information
- Guidance on Scholarship Searches
- Defaulted Student Loan Counseling

Success Story



From MCC-PV student Emanuel Burnette: The Educational Opportunity Center and their staff has helped me very much. They have helped me apply for my FAFSA every year. Today, I am a business major, a Bloch Scholar and I have completed four semesters at Penn Valley. When I first started coming to the EOC, I was a high school dropout with student loans that prevented me from enrolling in school. The advisors at the EOC helped me through the process of rehabilitating and managing my student loans and they also helped me write an essay to apply for the Bloch Scholarship, which will pay for me to get my bachelor's degree at UMKC after I finish my associate's degree at Penn Valley. I look forward to continuing to work with the EOC staff.

EOC Staff:

Jennifer Walk, Director

Camry Ivory, Advisor

Scott MacDougall, Advisor

Jan Rosenblum, Counselor

Janet Weaver, Counselor

Rufina Nelson, Financial Aid Assistant

Diane Thornton, Clerk



EOC Project Outcomes for 2014-2015

- Served 2,474 individuals, of those, 2,009 (81%) were low-income potential first generation college students.
- Participants served between ages (19-27) - 827; 28 years and older - 951
- Participants who received assistance with completing college admission applications - 964.
- Participants who received assistance with completing financial aid applications - 937.
- 593 participants enrolled in a postsecondary program.
- Seventy-six participants were provided defaulted student loan counseling with a combined loan debt of \$1,768,715.
- Average payment arranged was \$12.57, with a total yearly payback of \$8,148.
- EOC staff disseminated information on postsecondary and financial aid opportunities at 85 various agencies, schools and organizations throughout the year.



Changes for the 2017-2018 FAFSA

Beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, students will be able to complete the FAFSA as early as October 1st instead of January 1st. This is a permanent change to the FAFSA that will allow students and their families to receive information about their financial aid eligibility earlier and eliminates the need to rush to file taxes. This change will go into effect October 1st, 2016 for the 2017-2018 school year that begins in August of 2017. After this change, students and their families will use income information from 2015 (two years earlier) instead of 2016 income information to fill out the FAFSA. Below is a chart that summarizes changes and important dates.

When Will You Enroll in College?	When Can You Complete the FAFSA?	Which Year's Income is Required?
July 1, 2015–June 30, 2016	January 1, 2015–June 30, 2016	2014
July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017	January 1, 2016–June 30, 2017	2015
July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018	October 1, 2016–June 30, 2018	2015
July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019	October 1, 2017–June 30, 2019	2016

ACT to Offer Free Test Prep to Low-Income Students

Beginning on December 18th, 2016, ACT will offer students free access to their online ACT prep courses. The test prep courses usually cost \$39.95, but any student who receives a low-income fee waiver for the ACT any time after February 2016 will also receive free access to the test prep site. ACT fee waivers are available to 11th & 12th grade high school students who meet an indicator of financial need (receiving federal or state public assistance, free/reduced lunch eligibility, participation in a TRiO program, or documentation of household income at or below the USDA poverty level. For more information, visit <http://actstudent.org/onlineprep>



New FAFSA Sign-in: The FSA ID

In May of 2015 the Department of Education implemented a new sign-in system for all Federal Student Aid websites called the FSA ID (Federal Student Aid ID). This FSA ID replaces the old 4-digit PIN that was required to access fafsa.gov, studentloans.gov, NSLDS.gov and other student aid websites. The FSA ID consists of a unique username and password created by the student. Dependent students under the age of 24 will also need at least one parent to create their own unique FSA ID as well. While the new FSA ID system is a bit more complicated than the PIN number, the Department of Education feels that it is a more secure system, allowing people to login to Federal Student Aid websites without entering in sensitive information such as a social security number or date of birth. Setting up the FSA ID is a quick process. Students can go to <http://www.fsaid.ed.gov> to get started. Students should keep their FSA ID in a safe place, as it will be used to apply for financial aid every year. If students need assistance with any of these new changes, the advisors and counselors at the EOC are happy to help!

FSA ID Tips

1) Link your PIN to FSA ID

If you've applied for financial aid in the past, linking your old PIN to your FSA ID will allow you to use the FSA ID sooner. If you can't remember your old PIN, select "I forgot my PIN" and answer the prompt.

2) Choose static challenge questions:

Choose questions that will not change over time, like "What is your mother's first name" instead of questions that could change, like "What is my favorite TV show?"

3) Write it down!

Your FSA ID serves as your digital signature, so it is very important to keep it in a safe place. Store it in your phone, email it to yourself, or write it down and keep it in your wallet. Without your FSA ID, you cannot apply for the FAFSA online.



3100 Main Street, Suite 100
Kansas City, Missouri 64111
816-604-4400



Educational Opportunity Center/Kansas City, MO

The Kansas City Educational Opportunity Center is a 100% federally-funded TRIO program (\$428,649) 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 2400 individuals receive services provided by the EOC; at least two-thirds of whom 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 us.

816-604-4400.

<http://mckc.edu/eoc>

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/trioec>



Scholarship Websites and Search Tips

General

collegescholarships.org
carsonscholars.org/scholarships
epsilonsigmaalpha.org/scholarships-and-grants
fastweb.com
fastaid.com
free-4u.com
growyourgiving.org/scholarships
scholarshipamerica.org/open_scholarships.php
scholarships.com
scholarshiphunter.com
supercollege.com
unigo.com
weeklyscholarshipalert.com
wiredscholar.com
blog.saltmoney.org/tag/scholarships/
schoolsoup.com

Disabilities

afb.org
disabled-world.com/disability/education/scholarships/
disabilityscholarships.us/
disaboom.com/scholarships

Military/Veterans

aid.military.com/scholarship/search-for-scholarships.do
mymilitaryeducation.org
militaryscholar.org/sfmc/index.html

- Start Early! Most scholarship deadlines are in March or April.
- BEWARE of scholarship scams! Watch out for phrases like: "This scholarship is guaranteed", "You can't get this information anywhere else", "We need your credit card or account information", "You've been selected/or are the finalist" for an award you have never applied for, "The scholarship requires a small fee or attend a seminar on how to get financial aid for a small fee". For more information or to report a scam: Federal Trade Commission www.ftc.gov.
- Note if the scholarship is renewable.
- Keep applying for scholarships. You will be in school more than one year.