

Counselor Connection

April 2021



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Students should seek new skills in the age of automation

Education and training are the most important factors for ensuring student adaptability in a job market where employers are relying more on automation and artificial intelligence.

According to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, the industries that employ the most people are typically the ones that will see higher rates of automation. Included in these industries are workers in food preparation, sales, production, administration, and transportation.

“Adults with the lowest levels of education are the most vulnerable to changes from automation,” said ACHE Executive Director Jim Purcell. That may prove even more detrimental with fewer Alabama high school graduates entering higher education. ACHE data reports that the percentage of students choosing to attend college after high school dropped to 58%, the lowest it had been in the past five years.

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, many employers are speeding up the automation of their workforce. This reliance on automation, combined with the pandemic, led thousands of workers deemed essential to fall into the at-risk category for unemployment or reduced work hours. Students looking to earn jobs that pay livable wages should consider learning new skills beyond the high school level. According to a report by the Southern Regional Education Board, these skills will be mandatory by 2025, five years sooner than the previous projection of 2030.



KHEAA–Alabama

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KHEAA publishes the *Counselor Connection* to share information about student financial aid, college preparation and college planning. Comments and suggestions are always welcome. Please send them to publications@kheaa.com.

KHEAA continues hosting social media outreach

KHEAA Outreach will continue to provide live help in April via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Some sessions will include Kentucky-specific as well as general information. The schedule is:

- **April 20:** Game Time: College Jeopardy, **Facebook**
- **April 21:** Game Time: The Price is Right!, **Twitter**
- **April 22:** Game Time: Finish the Phrase, **Instagram**
- **April 27:** Wrapping Up Financial Aid: Award Letters and Decisions, **Facebook**
- **April 28:** Wrapping Up Financial Aid: Verification 101, **Twitter**
- **April 29:** Wrapping Up Financial Aid: It's Not Too Late, **Instagram**
- **May 4:** Still Deciding? May the Fourth Be With You, **Facebook**
- **May 5:** Still Deciding? Things to Consider When Deciding, **Twitter**
- **May 6:** Still Deciding? Action Items in Finalizing College Decisions, **Instagram**
- **May 11:** Already Decided? Orientation and Registration, **Facebook**
- **May 12:** Already Decided? Residence Life and Transition Experiences, **Twitter**
- **May 13:** Already Decided? Preparing for Your Future, **Instagram**
- **May 25:** Setting Up For Success: FAFSA Frenzy, **Facebook**



- **May 27:** Setting Up For Success: Senior Exit Checklist, **Instagram**

All sessions begin at 2 p.m. Central.

The links are:

www.facebook.com/KHEAA/

www.twitter.com/KHEAA

www.instagram.com/kheaaoutreach/?hl=en

Final spring financial aid webinar to be held May 6

The final spring KHEAA Outreach financial aid webinar about financial aid will be:

- ***Surviving College: A Guide to Persisting to Graduation***, Thursday, May 6, 6 p.m. Central

To register, visit <https://kygoestocollege.com/>. That page also has links to videos of previous webinars.

ACHE approves new academic programs

The Alabama Commission on Higher Education approved several new programs at its March meeting. They are:

- Athens State University: bachelor's degrees in elementary education, English for speakers of other languages, and nursing; master's degree in strategic human resource management.
- Auburn University: master's degrees in applied behavior analysis, development practice, and supply chain management.
- Shelton State Community College: associate's degree in medical laboratory technician.
- Troy University: bachelor's degree in data analytics.
- University of North Alabama: bachelor's degree in data analytics, master's degree in instructional technology and design.
- University of South Alabama, doctorate in chemical and biomolecular engineering. South Alabama will also establish a School of Marine and Environmental Sciences.



Know your school's satisfactory academic progress standards

One important phrase in the language of student aid is satisfactory academic progress, or SAP.

All colleges that award federal student aid must have SAP standards. Those standards are based on three key areas: the student's GPA, pace and a maximum time frame.

The GPA a student must have may vary by school, major and whether the student is an undergraduate or graduate student.

Pace means students must pass a certain- percentage of the classes they take in a given period of time. It may also vary by college.

The maximum time frame means students have to finish their degree within a given number of attempted credit hours. For example, a school might require a student to pass 120 credit hours to earn a bachelor's degree, but the student must earn 120 hours without taking more than 150 hours.

State grants will create free college textbooks

Some Alabama students will be able to save money on college textbooks thanks to grants from the Alabama Commission on Higher Education and the Alabama Community College System. The grants provided special training so educators can create textbooks that will be freely available online to students.

The 22 educators learned about legal license and public domain tools related to Open Educational Resources (OER) and their distribution. They used their knowledge to create and give a presentation about the uses of OER to their campus colleagues.

For more information about the OER initiative, visit <https://ache.edu/OER.aspx>.



Scholarship Spotlight

Alabama Law Foundation

Kids' Chance Scholarship

Eligibility: The applicant must:

- have a parent who was killed or suffered a disabling injury in an on-the-job accident.

Number: Varies, depending on funding and number of eligible applicants

Award: \$500 to \$2,500

Deadline: May 1

Contact: Alabama Law Foundation, P.O. Box 4129
Montgomery AL 36103; 334.781.6343; <https://www.alabamalawfoundation.org/scholarships/>



Does your child need more money for college?

We can help.

AdvantageEducationLoan.com