Bowman joins KHEAA as outreach counselor

Emily Bowman has joined KHEAA as an outreach counselor helping students and families in nine counties in southeastern Kentucky.

“I have partnered with KHEAA Outreach as a college coach for three years and deeply respect the impact KHEAA services make on students,” she said. “KHEAA does amazing work for students and schools all over the state, and I am honored to join its ranks. I want to help students in the region prepare for life beyond high school.”

Bowman will cover Bell, Clay, Harlan, Knox, Leslie, Letcher, McCreary, Perry and Whitley counties.

In addition to schools, Bowman will work with adult education centers, state agencies and other groups. She can be reached at ebowman@kheaa.com or (606) 273-9644.

Bowman is a native of Corbin and a graduate of Lynn Camp High School and Eastern Kentucky University. Before being named an outreach counselor, she volunteered for AmeriCorps as a college coach at Lynn Camp.
Private loans bridge gap between college costs, other financial aid

Most college-bound students qualify for financial aid to help pay for their education, such as federal and state grants, scholarships and federal loans. In addition, local scholarships are often available. Parents can also borrow federal loans to help pay students’ college costs.

Some students may find that these programs don’t cover all the costs of college. Others may not qualify for state and federal aid because they’re going to school less than half time. When that happens, private student loans, such as Advantage Education Loan, may be an option.

Because interest rates on private loans depend on the borrower’s credit rating, students may have to pay higher rates than they would on federal student loans. In addition, many lenders require students to have a cosigner, and most require the college to certify that the student needs the loan.

Students and parents are should compare the private loans offered by various lenders to find the best possible deal.

Outreach Spotlight

Name: Casi Benedict
Region: Northwestern Kentucky (Breckinridge, Daviess, Grayson, Hancock, Henderson, Hopkins, McLean, Ohio, Union, Webster)

Where did you go to college?
Transylvania University

How many years have you been an outreach counselor?
8

What are your favorite hobbies?
I love spending time with my twin boys, and I help my husband make independent films.

What is something on the top of your bucket list?
My dad was born in France, and I would love to travel there and visit the city he was born in.

What are you currently binge watching?
The Bachelor franchise is my guilty pleasure.

What is your favorite sports team?
Chicago Bears

What is your favorite movie?
America’s Sweethearts

Who is your favorite music artist?
Joe Firstman or Bright Eyes

What is your favorite part of your job?
My coworkers!

What advice would you give a high school student thinking about college?
Always work for where you want to be in life, not where you are.
Students should check KEES accounts to make sure info is accurate

Kentucky high school students and 2019 graduates should check their Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) accounts for accuracy.

KEES allows students to earn money for college for good grades in high school and for qualifying scores on the ACT or SAT. KEES is administered by KHEAA.

To check their awards, students need to sign in to their account on www.kheaa.com. If they don’t already have an account, they can set one up.

Students can verify their KEES GPA is correct by taking the letter grade for each course taken during the year and converting it to a 4.0 scale. On this scale, an A = 4.0, B = 3.0, C = 2.0, D = 1.0, and F = 0. Pluses and minuses count the same, so an A-minus and an A-plus are both worth 4.0 points. Grades for Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Cambridge Advanced International and dual credit courses are weighted, making an A = 5.0, B = 4.0, etc.

The GPA is calculated by adding all the points together and dividing the total by the number of credits earned during the year.

Students should also check their name, date of birth, address and Social Security number. If any information is incorrect, they should contact their school counselor as soon as possible.

Students who have problems with their account or cannot see their KEES information should call (800) 928-8926.

Monticello resident wins iPad in KHEAA contest

A Monticello resident, Callista Mann won the iPad given away by KHEAA as part of College Decision Day activities.

College Decision Day is a KHEAA campaign held each May. The campaign celebrates the decisions that Kentucky high school seniors have made about their future, whether that be continuing their education, joining the military or entering the workforce.
Scholarship Spotlight
Kentucky Council on Crime and Delinquency Inc. Scholarship

Eligibility: Must be a member of the Kentucky Council on Crime and Delinquency or be part of a member’s immediate family. Priority given to an eligible party without other means of assistance (i.e., scholarships, tuition assistance). Also based on GPA. Award: Varies; failure to complete the semester satisfactorily will result in the recipient’s being required to repay KCCD the full amount awarded. Satisfactory completion means an overall GPA of 2.0 for each semester. A copy of the transcript must be forwarded to KCCD no later than 30 days following the semester

Number: Varies
Deadline: July 30 and November 30
Contact: Scholarship Coordinator, c/o Amanda Dees KCIW, 3000 Ash Avenue, Pewee Valley, KY 40056; www.kccdonline.com

Outreach Spotlight

Name: Joplin Rice
Region: South Central Kentucky (Casey, Clark, Estill, Garrard, Jackson, Laurel, Lee, Lincoln, Madison, Owsley, Powell, Pulaski, Rockcastle)

Where did you go to college?
University of Kentucky

How many years have you been an outreach counselor?
1

What are your favorite hobbies?
Writing songs, recording music, playing music, reading, movies

What is something on the top of your bucket list?
Traveling across Europe

What are you currently binge watching?
True Detective

What is your favorite sports team?
Chelsea Football Club

What is your favorite movie?
The Godfather Part II

Who is your favorite music artist?
The Grateful Dead

What is your favorite part of your job?
Getting to help people who truly need it

What advice would you give a high school student thinking about college?
Start working on what you need to do early, early, early! Don’t wait until crunch time
No newsletter for July

As in past years, we won’t publish the Kentucky Counselor Connection in July. We’ll be back with our first issue for the 2019–2020 school year in August.

Follow these tips to find more funds for higher education

Students thinking about college or technical school may these tips help them get more money to pay for their education:

• If they haven’t already filed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), submit it now.
• Visit www.alstudentaid.com and click on Students and Parents.
• Look for local scholarships provided by community organizations and businesses.
• Talk with a financial aid officer at the school they plan to attend to learn about any aid the school has available.
• Take out student loans only after they have received all the free aid — grants, scholarships and work-study — for which they qualify. If they need loans, only borrow as much as they really need.
• Apply, apply, apply. The more financial aid for which they apply, the better their chances of getting enough aid to pay for college. Make sure they meet all deadlines.

Students can enter audio-essay contest

Students enrolled in a public, private, parochial or home schools in grades 9–12 can enter the Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy audio-essay contest.

The contest gives high school students an opportunity to express themselves in a patriotic-themed recorded essay.

The national first-place winner receives a $30,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient’s U.S. university, college or vocational/technical school. In addition, the first-place winner from each state will receive a scholarship worth at least $1,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

The 2019–2020 theme is: What makes America great?
Entries must be submitted by October 31.

Students can read the rules and eligibility requirements and download the entry form and brochure before they submit their entry at their local VFW Post.