KHEAA seeks high school senior to blog about admissions, aid

Kentucky students who will be high school seniors this fall are invited to enter a KHEAA vlogging contest.

The winning student will provide four vlogs for KHEAA between August 2019 and August 2020. The vlogs will tell about the winner’s experience with the college admissions and financial aid processes.

The winner will receive a $500 scholarship to a Kentucky school. The scholarship funds will be sent to the winner’s college or technical school after the four vlogs have been submitted to and approved by KHEAA.

The contest ends June 28. Complete rules for the contest can be found at www.kygoestocollege.com.

To enter, students must create an original video no more than 2 minutes long that introduces them and tells why they would be the best person to share their experiences. The video must be submitted by email to cgillum@kheaa.com, through text message to (502) 592-5166 or by Facebook messenger at www.facebook.com/kheaa. Students can submit only one entry during the contest period.

Employees and the immediate family members of KHEAA and the Kentucky Higher Education Student Loan Corporation (KHESLC) are not eligible.
Bowman joins KHEAA as outreach counselor

Emily Bowman has joined KHEAA as an outreach counselor and will work with students and families 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 my area prepare for life beyond high school.”

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.

“KHEAA is very fortunate to have Emily joining the Outreach team. She’s done wonderful work as a Kentucky College Coach,” KHEAA Director of Outreach Services Kim Dolan said, “and we have no doubt that she will be a great asset to the schools, students and families in the southeastern area of the state.”

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.

She received a Governor’s Service Award in March for her work in helping Lynn Camp students plan for their post-high school years.

Private loans bridge gap between college costs, other student aid awards

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.
Forbearances may help student loan borrowers

Borrowers having trouble making their student loan payments may be able to take advantage of a loan forbearance program.

Forbearances allow people to stop making payments or make smaller payments for a period of time. A forbearance can be general or mandatory.

A general forbearance might be granted if a borrower is having financial problems or has to pay high medical bills. A mandatory forbearance would be granted if a borrower who belongs to the National Guard or Reserves is called to active duty.

Borrowers must request a forbearance from their loan servicer. The servicer can decide whether to grant a general forbearance. If a borrower meets the criteria for a mandatory forbearance, the servicer must approve it.

6 colleges awarded grants to help students succeed

Six Kentucky colleges will receive grants from the Council on Postsecondary Education to help more students succeed in college. The awards total $300,000, according to the council.

CPE has awarded $50,000 Stronger by Degrees Student Success grants to five schools to improve student progression and completion, with an emphasis on low-income and underrepresented minority students. The schools are Eastern Kentucky University, Northern Kentucky University, Bluegrass Community and Technical College, Maysville Community and Technical College and Owensboro Community and Technical College.

NKU and the University of Kentucky each received a $25,000 grant for the Project Graduate returning adult program. The program helps former students with 80 or more credit hours finish their degrees.

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! Also, my husband owns a production company, and I help him 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?
Work for where you WANT to be in life, not where you are. Caring about people is always worth it.
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

Who are your favorite sports teams?  
Chelsea Football Clubs

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.

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.
Scott County educator named 2020 Teacher of the Year

Erin Elizabeth Ball, a language arts teacher at Georgetown Middle School in Scott County, is the 2020 Kentucky Teacher of the Year. Ball has four years of teaching experience in Scott County Schools.

Melanie Callahan, a fourth-grade teacher at London Elementary in Laurel County, is the 2020 Elementary School Teacher of the Year. Matthew Kaufmann, an English teacher at Marion C. Moore School in Jefferson County, is the 2020 High School Teacher of the Year.

Ball received $10,000 and a commemorative art-glass statuette from Valvoline. Callahan and Kaufmann each received $3,000 and a customized art glass statuette. Ball will represent the state in the 2020 National Teacher of the Year competition.

Valvoline and the Kentucky Department of Education co-sponsor the Kentucky Teacher Achievement Awards.

State begins summer reading program

Children will be given free books at several lunch programs being held across the state this summer as a part of the Kentucky Department of Education’s summer reading initiative, Stride Don’t Slide!

Beginning in mid-June, state officials will travel the state to offer free reading activities and book giveaways.

KDE will work with 10 districts across the state where to offer free lesson plans and books to all children who attend the events. The 10 districts had not been announced when this newsletter was sent.

READ Up events are for children from birth to age 8 and their parents or caregivers. Adults will learn ways to encourage young readers, and children can pick a new book and take-home materials. Research shows that access to books, books in the home and reading aloud improves children’s literacy skills.

Books for the program have been donated by the Governor’s Office for Early Childhood, the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services and Penguin Books. Others who want to donate books or funding for book purchases should contact Karen Wirth at Karen.Wirth@education.ky.gov.

Scholarship Spotlight

Kentucky Council on Crime and Delinquency Inc. Scholarship

Eligibility: Must be a member of the council or be an immediate family member of a council member. Priority given to an applicant who does not have other means of assistance (such as scholarships or tuition assistance). GPA also considered.

If the recipient does not complete the semester satisfactorily, the scholarship must be repaid. A copy of the transcript for the semester must be sent to the council within 30 days of the end of 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
College athletes must meet eligibility requirements

Students who plan to play intercollegiate sports must meet certain requirements. The requirements differ depending on the college’s affiliation: the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) or the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA).

The following information is a general guide for athletes who will enroll in college after July 31, 2019. To find out more, visit www.ncaa.org, www.naia.org or www.njcaa.org.

**NCAA**
The NCAA has three divisions, which have different requirements.

Athletes attending a Division I or Division II school must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at www.eligibilitycenter.org. At that site athletes and their high school can establish whether an athlete is eligible. That’s also the site athletes need to visit to see their high school’s core courses.

Core courses are those that have content at or above the high school’s regular content level. Only the core courses on the NCAA list can be used to figure an athlete’s core-course GPA.

In addition to the GPA requirement, athletes have to have certain scores on the ACT or SAT. To make sure the NCAA gets their test scores, athletes enter the NCAA Eligibility Center code of 9999 when they register for each test.

For Division I and II athletes, the ACT and SAT scores are combined scores. That means the scores in each subtest are added to arrive at a combined score. Athletes can use their best subtest score from several tests.

NCAA Division III schools don’t give athletic scholarships. Students who want to play sports at a Division III school should contact the school to find out what its policies are.

**NAIA**
The NAIA requires high school graduates who want to participate in sports to meet two of the following requirements:

- Have at least an 18 ACT or 970 SAT score, not including essay.
- Have at least a 2.0 high school GPA.
- Graduate in the top half of their high school class.

**NJCAA**
To be eligible to play sports at an NJCAA school, athletes must have earned a high school diploma or a GED.
TranspARTation grants help schools with arts field trips

The Kentucky Arts Council is accepting applications for its TranspARTation grant through Aug. 30.

The grant covers the cost of transportation to and from an arts venue from the arts council’s TranspARTation Directory. Grants are based on the mileage from the school building to the venue and the number of buses needed. Schools may apply for the grant in any amount.

Any Kentucky public or private school that supports grades pre-K through 12 may apply for a grant.

For more information, visit the TranspARTation web page or contact Emily B. Moses at emilyb.moses@ky.gov or (502) 892-3109.

Grant will help state improve school mental health services

Kentucky has been awarded a $9 million federal grant to improve mental health services to students in public schools. Only four states received such grants. Pilot projects will target students in the Bullitt, Henderson and Warren County school districts.

The grant was awarded to a partnership between the Kentucky Department of Education and the Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities in the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

The agencies will work to provide more mental health support in school, provide mental health first aid training and improve students’ social skills.

The project will serve more than 37,000 students each year for five years. It will also impact nearly 400 school administrators, some 3,300 school staff and more than 1,000 parents and community members, according to KDE.

What 2019 grads can do to get ready for campus

If you’re a 2019 high school graduate headed for college, here are some things you can do to get ready for your campus experience:

☐ Attend freshman orientation.

☐ Get to know your roommate over the summer. Texting or a social media site is a great way to get started. Put your heads together and come up with a list of what you will take to college so you don’t duplicate.

☐ Work out a budget and come up with the best way to pay for the things you’re going to need. You’ll need your parents’ input on this one.

☐ Make sure you have all your personal care items before you leave for school.

☐ Have a plan for keeping in touch with your family.

☐ If you didn’t attend orientation or haven’t taken the time to become familiar with the campus, make sure you take the time prior to the beginning of classes to familiarize yourself with where your classes will be held each day.
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