

KHEAA Advisor

Simplifying the process.

Volume 5 Issue 1 Fall 2013



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If you have a question you would like to see addressed in a public forum such as *KHEAA Advisor*, please send the question or topic suggestion to Meredith Geraci at mgeraci@kheslc.com.



KESPT 25TH ANNIVERSARY

The Kentucky Education Savings Plan Trust (KESPT) celebrates 25 years of providing college savings plans in Kentucky.

KESPT is a tax-advantaged savings plan that was created by the 1988 General Assembly to help families invest money for college and is administered by KHEAA. As the state's official 529 savings plan, KESPT has helped thousands of students attend college.

Recently there was a celebration at the state capitol to honor those who helped make KESPT a success.

Honorees were:

- Governor and Mrs. Steve Beshear.
- KHEAA board members Barbara Sexton Smith; John Cheshire; Secretary Lori Flanery of the Finance and Administration Cabinet; Lee Nimocks, representing the Council on Postsecondary Education; and Gary Cox, president of the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities and a long-time KHEAA board member who was on the original KESPT board appointed by Governor Wallace Wilkinson in 1988.
- Rick Casey, long-time KHEAA general counsel who was involved with the development of the program.
- Janice Ernst, long-time KHEAA staff member who played a critical role in the 1990 transition of the program from the Governor's Office to KHEAA.
- Teresa Barton, who was instrumental in developing and fine-tuning the many operation and program offerings.
- Jo Carole Ellis, who was a driving force behind many of the program's current enhancements.



KESPT PROGRAM BENEFITS

KESPT is easy to access and affordable. Some of the great benefits include:

Low minimum contribution

Anyone, regardless of income, may open and contribute to an account for an eligible beneficiary. Minimum contribution is only \$25 to get started. There is no annual contribution limit, but the overall contribution limit is \$235,000.

Ability to qualify for in-state tuition rates

If an account beneficiary who is covered under a KESPT vested participation agreement moves to another state, he or she can still qualify for Kentucky in-state tuition rates at certain institutions. Additional restrictions apply.

Kentucky state student aid eligibility

KESPT savings are not included in determining the amount of Kentucky need-based aid that a beneficiary will receive. However, other federal and institutional aid programs may take the account balance into consideration when determining eligibility.

Tax-Free withdrawals

No portion of a withdrawal from a KESPT account, including any earnings on contributions, will be subject to federal or Kentucky income tax if the withdrawal is used to pay for qualified higher education expenses. As an account owner, you control all contributions and withdrawals. Non-qualified withdrawals are subject to income tax and other fees.



From left, Dr. Carl Rollins, executive director of KHEAA; David Lawhorn, the KESPT program administrator; First Lady Jane Beshear; Kimberly Miller, winner of the "How KESPT Changed My Life" contest; and State Treasurer Todd Hollenbach.

Qualified expenses

KESPT funds may be applied toward tuition, certain room and board expenses, fees, and the cost of books, supplies and equipment required by the school.

Choice of school

Funds in the account may be used at any eligible higher education institution in the nation and many abroad.

Transferable

If your beneficiary does not attend an eligible school, you may name another beneficiary for your account. The new beneficiary must be an eligible member of the previous beneficiary's family.

For more information on KESPT, or to open an account, go to kysaves.com or call 877.598.7878

COLLEGE APPLICATION MONTH

November 2013 is Kentucky College Application Month!

For many students, applying to college can seem overwhelming, particularly for those who do not have an immediate family member who attended college. If there is no one to help them navigate the college application process, then these students may not pursue a postsecondary education.



Schools that implement a College Application Month program can ensure that all high school seniors have the opportunity to receive hands-on assistance as they take the first big step towards continuing their education.

Schools and organizations participating in College Application Month set aside time and space for seniors to complete at least one application for admission while receiving encouragement and assistance from school, college and community volunteers.

KHEAA sponsors Kentucky College Application Month as an outreach initiative, working with statewide, regional and local partners. We provide local support through resource materials and our regional outreach counselors.



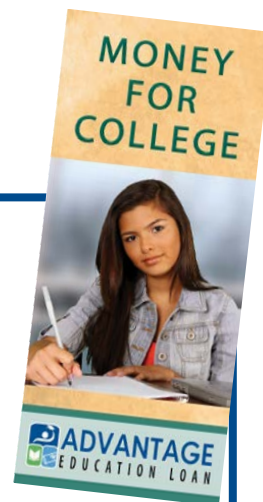
If you have questions about Kentucky College Application Month, please contact KHEAA's Assistant Director of Outreach Services, Kim Dolan at (502) 329-7206 or kdolan@kheaa.com.

LOWER INTEREST RATES

The interest rates for Advantage Education Loans have been lowered and are still FIXED! Also, the fees associated with these state-based loans are among the lowest in the nation.

The loan decision is credit- and income-based. If the borrower has a limited credit history, questionable credit or no income, then we recommend they apply with a creditworthy cosigner.

More information on our student and parent loans can be found [here](#).



Immediate Repayment – Principal plus Interest

- 5.79 to 7.09% FIXED interest rate
- 2% Guarantee fee
- 0.50% Interest rate reduction for auto debit
- Repayment begins as soon as the loan is fully disbursed.

Immediate Repayment – Interest Only

- 5.79 to 7.09% FIXED interest rate
- 2% Guarantee fee
- 0.50% Interest rate reduction for auto debit
- Interest payments begin as soon as the loan is fully disbursed. Full repayment begins six months after the student leaves school or drops below half-time status.

Postponed Repayment

- 6.49% to 7.59% FIXED interest rate
- 3% Guarantee fee
- 0.50% Interest rate reduction for auto debit
- Repayment begins six months after the student leaves school or drops below half-time status.

How to access the loan application

kheslc.com – Students and parents can just click on the APPLY NOW button.

advantageeducationloan.com – This is the direct portal to the Advantage Education Loan application.

Call KHESLC at 800.988.6333 – Borrowers may call to have an application sent via mail or email.

Both student and parent Advantage loans are owned and serviced by KHESLC.

Loans are originated and disbursed by KHEAA.



KHEAA VERIFY STREAMLINES ACTIVITY

Let's face it — the verification process can be time consuming, frustrating, costly and, frankly, not much fun. KHEAA can help with all these issues.

When you sign up for KHEAA Verify, our specially trained and professional staff will conduct all the verification steps for you, so you can use your staff for other important tasks.

Our verification process is easy to use. You send us the file of the students needing to be verified, regardless of the level of verification required, and we do the rest.

KHEAA staff will contact the students on your behalf advising them of what is needed and how to supply the documentation. The students upload the data required via a secure student portal. We will follow up with the students if additional information is required. Once the verification is complete, we will submit the changes to CPS.

At any time during the process, you can monitor our progress via MyKHEAA (formerly Zip Access) which gives you full control over the process and ensures your students' verification needs are met.



To receive pricing details and more information on KHEAA Verify, please contact your KHEAA marketing representative. Call 888.678.4625 or email us at marketing@kheaa.com.

LOWERING YOUR COHORT DEFAULT RATE



All too often students will start college but withdraw before earning their degree, sometimes withdrawing during their first semester. Students who withdraw early may owe student loans even if they have nothing to show for it. These students are susceptible to becoming past due on their loan payments, potentially leading to default.

If you have noticed an increase in your default rates and you need assistance, we can help. Please contact your KHEAA marketing representative about our Cohort Default Management Service. There are three categories from which to choose to help you manage your default rate and help your students:

Early Intervention reaches out to your students who will soon enter repayment through graduating, withdrawing or dropping below half-time status. This program offers proactive help to keep students from missing or being late on payments.

Default Prevention contacts borrowers in your cohort who are delinquent but not yet in default. These borrowers are counseled on their repayment options, including deferments and forbearances. Once we determine the reason for the delinquency, we can offer the proper assistance to get them over their hurdle.

Student Transition Service, our newest feature, offers timely messages that are sent to targeted student groups throughout their college career. The information is designed to:

- Support transition into higher education.
- Promote financial literacy.
- Navigate college life.
- Encourage persistence and completion.
- Educate students preparing to enter the workforce.
- Promote successful management of student debt.

**To learn more about our
Cohort Default
Management Service
and how it can help you
and your students:**

Call 800.564.6068 or

Email marketing@kheaa.com

NOTEWORTHY NEWS

Morty goes to the fair

KHEAA and KHESLC exhibit at the Kentucky State Fair each year. Our goal is to increase awareness about the products and services available from our organizations, and to promote higher education in Kentucky to residents of all ages. 2013 was the first year our mascot, Morty, joined us. He was a big hit with kids of all ages.



Governor's Scholars Program

The dates and locations of the 2014 Governor's Scholars Program have been announced. They will be held on the Bellarmine University campus in Louisville, on the Morehead State University campus in Morehead and on the Murray State University campus in Murray. Governor's Scholars are drawn from across Kentucky and represent the diversity of the Commonwealth. The Governor's Scholars Program is a creative, five-week, residential summer program for outstanding Kentucky students completing their junior year in high school.

June 15 to July 19, First Session

June 21 to July 25, Second Session

June 22 to July 26, Third Session

KnowHow2GOKy

KnowHow2GOKy is a multiyear, multimedia effort designed to encourage more Kentuckians to plan, enroll and succeed in college.

Kentuckians can [take a quiz](#) to see if they are prepared for college. The information is geared toward users in any stage of school or life. A key feature of the site includes a "Find Help" section, which allows users to locate education-related organizations and programs in their county. More information is available [here](#).

GED®

Kentucky learners who don't complete all five parts of the GED® test before December 18 will have to start over and take a completely new test in 2014.

The new test will be available only on computer. Paper tests will no longer be used. The current Kentucky testing fee is \$60. The 2014 fee will be \$120 and a credit card or voucher will be required for payment.

Kentucky Adult Education offers free classes to help adults earn their GED. To find an adult education center, visit knowhowtogoky.org or call 800.928.7323.

More information is available at Kentucky Adult Education website and KET's GED Connection.

GED testing information is also available at www.finishtheGED.com.

'Surviving College' available in Spanish

"Surviving College," KHEAA's popular guide that helps college freshmen succeed during their first year on campus, is now available in a Spanish version.

The 36-page booklet includes the following sections:

- Majors and class schedules
- Staying healthy and safe on campus
- Learning styles and study tips
- Campus life
- Financial basics



Schools are welcome to print copies of the booklet from kheaa.com for Spanish-speaking students to share with their parents. To order hard copies of the English version, please email publications@kheaa.com.

KENTUCKY COLLEGE COACHES PROGRAM

September brought with it the release of the program evaluation report on the 2012 Kentucky College Coaches Program, *Pursuing Pathways: Evaluation of the Kentucky College Coaching Program 2011–2012*, sponsored by the Kentucky Campus Compact and authored by external program evaluators Dr. Nicolas Valcik (Associate Director of the Office of Strategic Planning and Analysis, University of Texas at Dallas) and Dr. Kimberly Scruton (Assistant Professor and Department Chair of the School of Business Administration, Marketing and Management, Methodist University).

KHEAA partnered with Berea College and the Kentucky Office of Career and Technical Education under the auspices of the Kentucky Campus Compact to implement a grant-funded, on-site, near-peer mentoring program for middle of the academic road high school students the authors referred to as the “ignored student segment”: students neither at the top nor at bottom of the academic performance distribution.

“They are the students in the middle of the pack who are in essence ‘at risk’ of not going to college or graduating from high school since they are essentially left to fend for themselves,” Valcik and Scruton wrote. The Kentucky College Coaches Program provided AmeriCorps volunteers, themselves recent college graduates, to work at 37 high schools on a daily basis throughout the academic year directly assisting, in one-on-one settings, 757 students in familiarizing themselves with and navigating college-prep course and test preparation, college selection, and college application processes and in a more general fashion with each school’s total population (7,187 students).

Qualitative and quantitative analyses were used to evaluate the effectiveness of the program. There were many positive and significant findings but the most dramatic regarded the college going rate of students directly mentored by AmeriCorps volunteer college coaches. The college going rate for individually mentored high school seniors was **more than 15% greater** (65.7% to 49.4%) than the non-individually mentored seniors at the same high schools.

— Mel Letteer, KHEAA Director of Research

Link to the full Kentucky College Coaches Evaluation Report:

<http://www.wvu.edu/~planning/documents/resume/CCPR.pdf>

To learn more about the Kentucky College Coaches Program:

<http://www.berea.edu/esp/2012/08/06/kentucky-college-coaches-ameri-corps-program/>

COLLEGE GOAL KENTUCKY

In response to the need and desire to offer expanded FAFSA support for the students of Kentucky, the traditional one-day format of College Goal Sunday will be changing this year. KASFAA's FAFSA completion initiative, now called College Goal Kentucky, will be a multiday program spanning late fall 2013 through spring 2014. Any campus or organization that would like to host an event focused on FAFSA preparation, completion or follow up is welcome to participate and can submit one or multiple dates for inclusion in the College Goal Kentucky calendar. The event must be open to the public.

This new format will give schools that want to host a College Goal Kentucky event the flexibility to choose the date and time that works best for their campus and staff. Students who come to any College Goal Kentucky event around the state will still have an opportunity to complete a survey and enter a drawing for one of four \$500 scholarships.

Many schools have already submitted dates for the College Goal Kentucky calendar, and it's not too late to sign up! If you are interested in hosting an event, please contact KASFAA's College Goal Kentucky chair, Kim Dolan, as soon as possible at 502-329-7206 or kdolan@kheaa.com so you can be added to the calendar. Kim will also be doing a session at the upcoming KASFAA fall conference to talk about the new format and answer any questions. The goal is to have the calendar of events finalized and on the KASFAA website by mid-October so promotion can begin and continue through the fall months.

— Kim Dolan, KHEAA Assistant Director of Outreach Services



JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Kentucky residents have another chance to win a new Apple iPad with Retina display from KHEAA in a sweepstakes being held through Facebook. The contest runs from 12:01 a.m. November 1 through 12 a.m. on December 1, 2013.

To enter, a Kentuckian must click on the orange graduate icon on the KHEAA Facebook page, answer one question about college and “like” KHEAA on Facebook.

Only Kentucky residents are eligible. Employees of KHEAA or KHESLC, and their immediate family members are not eligible. Prior winners are also not eligible.

The drawing will be held in early December, and the winner will be notified by email. The winner must respond by email within three calendar days to receive the iPad. If no response is received within three days, another winner will be drawn.

KHEAA will not share or sell any personal information to a third party.



Previous iPad winners



Stacy Bartley, February 2013 winner, is a teacher in Marion County.



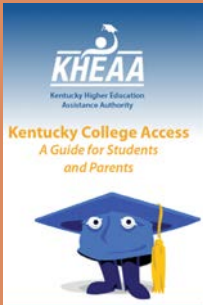
Pictured left to right: Casi Clark, Northwestern Kentucky Outreach Counselor; and Amy Cook, iPad winner from May 2013.



The August 2013 winner was James Hall of Bowling Green, pictured here with his daughter Courtney, and Destiny O'Rourke, Southwestern Kentucky Outreach Counselor.

Download KHEAA's free Kentucky College Access mobile app.

- iPhone/iPad: (App Store>Search Store>KHEAA)
- Android: (Google Play store>KHEAA)



More ways for your students to get financial aid, scholarship and money tips!



"Like" us



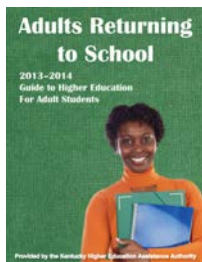
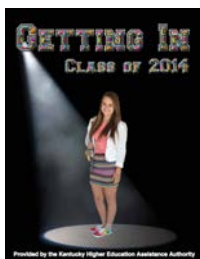
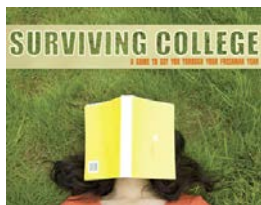
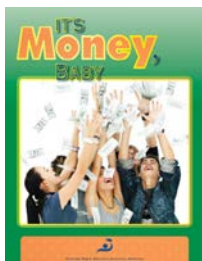
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UPDATED PUBLICATIONS

Most publications can be ordered from our website, although some are online only. The items below can be ordered [here](#).



The following brochures can be ordered [here](#):



LIMITED SUPPLY AVAILABLE!

Contact your KHEAA or KHESLC marketing representative or email Eleanor Kley at ekley@kheslc.com to order posters and calendars.



Pull a tab off the bottom of this poster for Kentucky Advantage Education Loan contact information.



2013-2014 large, school-year calendar for your office.

Mark Your Calendar

- October 9-11, 2013. KASFAA Spring 2013 Conference, Marriott, Hebron. Check [here](#) for details.
- November 2013. Kentucky College Application Month.
- November 11, 2013. KHEAA/KHESLC offices will be closed in observance of Veterans Day.
- November 28-29, 2013. KHEAA/KHESLC offices will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving.
- December 3-6, 2013. FSA Conference, Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas. Check [here](#) for details.
- December 13, 2013. NASFAA Training on “Compliance and Collaboration: R2T4,” Leestown Campus of Bluegrass Community and Technical College.
- December 24-25, 2013. KHEAA/KHESLC offices will be closed in observance of Christmas.
- December 31, 2013, and January 1, 2014. KHEAA/KHESLC offices will be closed in observance of New Year’s.
- February 16-19, 2014. SASFAA Conference, Jacksonville. Check [here](#) for updates.

Cover photo: Fall colors surround a historic bridge, built in 1930, reflected in the Cumberland River just upstream of the Cumberland Falls.

GOVERNMENT CLOSURE — FSA AND SASFAA INFO

Federal student aid processing and customer service guidance

An announcement was made by James W. Runcie, Chief Operating Officer, Federal Student Aid on September 27, 2013, regarding the federal government closure and its effect on federal student aid processing and customer service contact centers.

The complete text can be found at <http://ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/092713PotentialGovernmentShutdown.html>

If you need assistance during a federal shutdown, contact the appropriate customer service contact center. Most contact centers will be open during a shutdown. More information on the operational status of Customer Service Contact Centers during federal government closure is located [here](#).

Federal student aid follow-up provided by SASFAA

A follow-up announcement was made by Philip Hawkins, SASFAA Legislative Relations Chair on October 1, 2013.

The information below is the best available information available at the time of printing. SASFAA cannot be held responsible for this information if it proves to be inaccurate:

- 1) Will students/parents be able to obtain an IRS Tax Return Transcript during the government shutdown?
Unknown as this impact is on the IRS side. It is expected that families may indeed experience difficulties obtaining the Tax Return Transcript during this time; if any of your students experience this problem, please share with SASFAA so they can update the SASFAA membership.
- 2) What about the IRS Data Retrieval Tool functionality on the FAFSA?
Unknown as this impact is on the IRS side. If any of your students have success or failure on this matter, please share with SASFAA.
- 3) Can Federal Work-Study students continue to work during the shutdown?
SASFAA assumes yes because they are not federal employees; they are students receiving federal student aid funds in the form of wages.
- 4) Will the FSA Conference in Las Vegas in December be affected?
Unknown at this time.
- 5) SASFAA does not anticipate any interruptions in federal funding from G-5. FSA funds are forward-funded from the previous budget year, and all G-5 processes are electronic. Yet, if any of your schools experience any problems with funding, please share with SASFAA.
- 6) Availability of ED trainers at upcoming state conferences may be affected, and due to the timing of the shutdown, state conference leaders may or may not be notified in time for adjustments to their conference agendas.
- 7) The entire NCES website, including the College Navigator used to compare schools, is shut down.

For any new questions or updates about any of these items or others related to the current Federal government shutdown, please email phawkins@westga.edu so he can re-post them to the SASFAA listserv.