

YOUR



COLLEGE
CONNECTION

Summer 2023

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 [College Circuit
Getting In
Application Deadlines
FAFSA opens December 2023](#)
- 3 [Staff Changes and Promotions](#)
- 4 [Outreach Social Media](#)
- 5 [Early Childhood Development
Scholarship
Scholarship Spotlights](#)
- 6 [College and University News
A College Success Story](#)
- 7 [National ACT/SAT Test Dates
Kentucky State Fair](#)
- 8 [KY Saves 529](#)
- 9 [Advantage Education Loans](#)

KHEAA names new Executive Director

On July 18, Jo Carole Ellis of Frankfort was named the new executive director and chief executive officer of the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) and the Kentucky Higher Education Student Loan Corporation (KHESLC).

“I am honored to be entrusted with the leadership of KHEAA and KHESLC and would like to thank the Board of Directors for this opportunity,” Ellis said. “I am excited to return to the organizations and look forward to working alongside the board and staff to further their mission of helping Kentucky students and families achieve postsecondary education and success.”

Ellis previously worked for KHEAA for 17 years, serving as program director for the Kentucky Education Savings Plan Trust (KESPT) and Kentucky’s Affordable Prepaid Tuition (KAPT) programs, student aid branch manager and government relations director. She most recently served as committee staff administrator at the Kentucky Legislative Research Commission. In that role, she was the administrator of the Education Committee, drafted education-related legislation and advised legislators on education issues. Ellis has a bachelor’s in journalism from Eastern Kentucky University.

“Jo Carole’s exceptional qualifications position her as a distinguished education policy advocate, making her a perfect fit for this role,” said KHEAA board chair John Dougherty.

“She has a long history of demonstrated commitment to enhancing student access to higher education. She is passionate about the work she does, and we look forward to working alongside her as she leads the organizations into the future.”



Jo Carole Ellis and John Dougherty



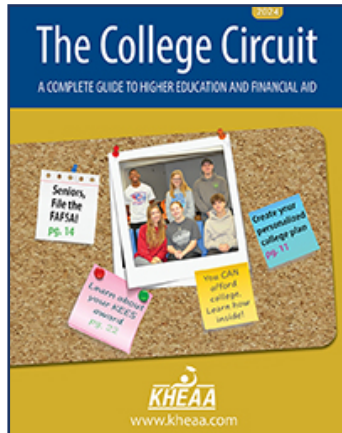
For help with your higher education and financial aid questions, visit

www.kheaa.com

Publications now available online and to order

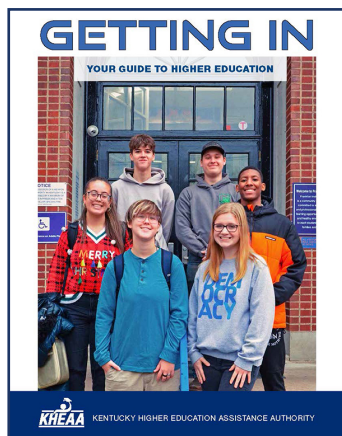
Updated versions of both of these books are available online at kheaa.com.

[The College Circuit](#) contains information about careers, college preparation, student financial aid, and financial literacy. The booklet can be used by students ranging from middle schoolers to adults.



[Getting In](#)

lists Kentucky colleges, the degrees offered, and the current year's costs. Copies are sent to high schools for distribution to all juniors. Portions of the book are available in audio.



If needed, you may also order a printed copy using the order form located [here](#).

[Online copies of our publications](#)

[Order form for printed copies](#)

Pay attention to application deadlines

Kentucky students should keep a close eye on deadlines when applying for student financial aid for their beginning or continuing postsecondary education.

Rule number one is to apply for that aid on a timely basis in order to get all the financial aid possible. Every scholarship or grant received will reduce the dependence on student loans.

Here are some helpful student financial aid tips from KHEAA:

- File the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA) as soon as possible. The FAFSA must be submitted to qualify for most state and federal student aid. See below for updates and information on the “Better FAFSA, Better Future.”
- Check with the financial aid offices of your preferred schools to determine if they require any forms other than the FAFSA.
- Look for scholarships using KHEAA’s [Affording Higher Education](#) and the “Scholarships and Grants” section of kheaa.com. A free online scholarship search is located at [Career One Stop](#).
- Attend any college fairs and financial aid seminars offered in your area. If a company charges a fee for helping with applications, remember that you can do that yourself for free.

[Better FAFSA, Better Future](#)

While the FAFSA typically opens for applications on October 1, the application for the 2024–25 school year has been delayed until December 2023.

A few changes to the FAFSA Explained!

[Watch our recent YouTube video](#)

Dolan promoted to Vice President

Kim Dolan has been promoted from Outreach Director to Vice President of Government Relations, Communications & Outreach.

“I am excited to take on this new role at KHEAA and KHESLC,” Dolan said. “I look forward building relationships as the legislative liaison, and continuing to collaborate with our dedicated teams to advocate for accessible and affordable higher education for all students in Kentucky.”

Kim has been with KHEAA/KHESLC for 18 years. She most recently served as Director of Outreach.

“These promotions reflect the exceptional capabilities and contributions of Kim, Casi and Keith within our organizations,” said Diana Barber, KHEAA/KHESLC Chief Operating Officer. “We are confident in their ability to lead and inspire their teams, and we believe that their strategic vision and passion for supporting students will greatly benefit KHEAA and KHESLC in our ongoing commitment to increasing access to higher education.”

KHEAA names new Outreach Director and Assistant Director

Casi Benedict has been promoted to the role of Director of Outreach Services .

“It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I step into the position of Director of Outreach Services at KHEAA and KHESLC,” said Benedict. “I look forward to continuing to work with Kim and our Outreach staff to ensure that students have the resources and assistance they need to succeed in their educational journeys.”

Casi has been with KHEAA/KHESLC for 13 years. She most recently served as Assistant Director of Outreach, after having moved up from the Northwestern KY Outreach Counselor position.

Casi’s focus on the future:

- Build and support a strong Outreach staff.
- Provide efficient and effective FAFSA training across the state.
- Grow and retain strong partnerships with stakeholders.
- Use innovative and unique ideas to enhance how we serve students, families, schools, and communities across KY.

Keith Ritchie has been named the new Outreach Assistant Director.

Keith has served in various positions in KHEAA’s Outreach area, with the most recent one being the Northern KY Outreach Counselor. He has been the College Coach Program Manager and prior to that, the South Central KY Outreach Counselor.

Keith’s focus for the future:

- Help lead Kentucky students toward a post-secondary education.
- Work to ensure that each student we encounter knows that a post-secondary education is not only attainable, but can also be affordable, thanks to our aid programs at KHEAA.
- Search for opportunities to make an impact—by offering presentations, exhibits, and workshops geared toward helping students plan, prepare, and pay for a post-secondary education.
- Work hard to ensure school counselors and college access professionals are prepared for the changes to the FAFSA—by offering regional trainings ahead of the new FAFSA’s opening.

KHEAA Outreach Social Media Events

KHEAA Outreach has a multitude of social media events. Details are on kheaa.com.

Date/Time	Event	Location/ Link	Audience
8/16/2023 3pm ET, 2pm CT	Applying for College	Instagram	Seniors
8/21/2023 3pm ET, 2pm CT	Getting In: Answers Seniors Need to Know	Twitter	Rising Seniors/Parents
9/11/2023 7pm ET, 6pm CT	Swipe Right on Your Dream Job: Steps to Finding the Right Job	Facebook	High School
9/18/2023 7pm ET, 6pm CT	Paying for College	Zoom	Parents/High School
9/25/2023 7pm ET, 6pm CT	Swipe Right on Your Dream Job: How to Get the Right Job	Twitter	High School
9/28/2023 4pm ET, 3pm CT	2024–2025 FAFSA: When & How	Instagram	Parents/Seniors
10/9/2023 7pm ET, 6pm CT	The Right Way to Apply: Applying for Scholarships	Facebook	Juniors/Seniors
posting on/before 10/16/2023	Meeting the Deadline: Applying for College and Scholarships	YouTube	Seniors
10/23/2023 7pm ET, 6pm CT	The Right Way to Apply: Scholarship FAQ	Twitter	Juniors/Seniors
posting on/before 10/30/2023	FSA ID Walk-Through	YouTube	Parents/Seniors
11/6/2023 7pm ET, 6pm CT	FAFSA (A-Z)	Facebook	Seniors
11/13/2023 7pm ET, 6pm CT	All Things Admissions	Zoom	Seniors
11/20/2023 7pm ET, 6pm CT	FAFSA (A-Z)	Twitter	Seniors
12/4/2023 7pm ET, 6pm CT	KEES to Success: Cruisin' to a Higher Award	Facebook	Middle School
12/5/2023 7pm ET, 6pm CT	Better FAFSA, Better Future: 2024-25 FAFSA	Zoom	Parents/Seniors
12/11/2023 7pm ET, 6pm CT	KEES to Success: KEES FAQ	Twitter	Middle School

Financial Aid Program

Spotlight — Early Childhood Development Scholarship

The Early Childhood Development Scholarship (ECDS) helps Kentuckians who work in daycares and preschool settings earn credentials, certificates and degrees in the field of early childhood education.

Eligible programs include:

- Child Development Associate Credential.
- Associate's degree in early childhood education.
- Bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary early childhood education or a related program approved by the Early Childhood Development Authority.
- Master's degree in interdisciplinary early childhood education.
- Kentucky Early Childhood Development Director's Certificate.

To qualify for the ECDS program a student must:

- Be a Kentucky resident.
- Be a U.S. citizen, national or permanent resident.
- Be enrolled in a qualifying program of study at a participating institution pursuing one of the approved credentials.
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress as determined by the student's institution.
- Be employed at least 20 hours weekly in a participating early childhood facility or be employed as a preschool associate teacher in a state-funded pre-school program.
- Not be eligible for state or federal training funds through Head Start, a public preschool program, or First Steps.
- Have no unpaid financial obligation to KHEAA or to any other Title IV program.
- Agree to a service commitment based on the credential pursued.

Students interested in the ECDS need to file the 2023–2024 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and apply online at www.kheaa.com.

The ECDS application deadline for the spring 2024 semester is November 15th, 2023.

For the 2023–2024 year, the award is up to full tuition and fees at a participating institution, not to exceed \$6,606.00 per semester.

Scholarship Spotlights

Kentucky Environmental Health Association: Judy Inman True Scholarship

Eligibility: Must be a college student and be studying in an environmental health field.

Award: \$2,000

Number: 1

Deadline: October 31

Contact: Brittany Wells, Northern Kentucky Health Department, 8001 Veterans Memorial Drive, Florence, KY 41042; kyehscholarship@gmail.com

Kids Chance of Kentucky Scholarship

Eligibility: Must be a child who had a parent seriously, catastrophically or fatally injured in a Kentucky employment-related accident and who is a Kentucky resident between 16 and 25 years old. The financial impact of the parent's injury or death will be a major consideration.

Award: Up to \$2,500 per semester; renewable for 4 or more years provided progress is made toward a degree and student remains in good standing with the school

Number: Varies

Deadline: October 30, for the next spring semester

Contact: Counselor or Scholarship Committee, Kids Chance of Kentucky, PO Box 910234, Lexington, KY 40591; 859.219.0194; gdavis5@windstream.net; www.kidschanceky.org

College and University News

Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS)

The KCTCS Board of Regents voted to increase tuition for the 2023–2024 academic year at all KCTCS colleges by \$4 per credit hour. This brings the in-state tuition rate to \$186 and \$250 for students attending KCTCS from out of state. Despite this increase, KCTCS tuition remains the lowest in Kentucky and about half the cost of university tuition.

University of Kentucky (UK)

The UK Board of Trustees approved the largest budget in the university's history, which includes a 2.75% tuition increase for in-state students for the 2023–2024 academic year. Tuition and fees for in-state students will increase to \$6,606 for the upcoming school year, up \$177 from last school year. Out-of-state students will have a tuition and fee increase of 3.5%, with tuition and fees set at \$16,703.

Simmons College of Kentucky

The college will be offering course work to Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women. People who have at least 12 months left to serve or 12 months before they're eligible for parole can apply. Simmons College, the only Historically Black college or university in Louisville, will offer an associate degree in general studies or religious studies, along with a bachelor's degree in sociology or business entrepreneurship.

University of Louisville (U of L)

A new partnership has begun between the university and Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) to employ U of L education majors as instructional assistants, providing them a salary and tuition assistance. JCPS provides a mentor, and the student gets credit toward their graduation requirements.

Benefits of KEES and Grant Programs

At a recent KHEAA/KHESLC board meeting held on the U of L campus, Dr. Kim Schatzel welcomed the board. As the 19th president of the University of Louisville, Dr. Schatzel is a nationally recognized leader with extensive experience in both higher education and the private sector, being one of only 2% of university presidents nationwide with extensive corporate and entrepreneurial C-suite experience.

She thanked KHEAA and staff for all the help they provide in administering KEES and the Kentucky grant award programs.

Dr. Schatzel also introduced the board to Ms. Ali Tagnedji, from Togo, West Africa, who graduated this year with a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry.

Ms. Tagnedji is a first generation college graduate. She received many merit-based KEES awards and College Access Program (CAP) grants, which enabled her to attend college. Her brother starts U of L in the fall and has received the same assistance allowing for a full ride.

Coming from a country that does not encourage females to attend school, her family made the decision to move to the United States. Her mother did not attend school, but understands the importance of doing so. Ali thanked KHEAA for the wonderful programs we provide for students like her to help get an education.



Dr. Kim Schatzel and Ms. Ali Tagnedji

ACT National Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration
Sept. 9, 2023*	Aug. 4, 2023*	Aug. 18, 2023*
Oct. 9, 2023*	Sept. 17, 2023*	Oct. 1, 2023*
Dec. 9, 2023*	Nov. 3, 2023*	Nov. 17, 2023*

* projected dates and deadlines for the 2023–24 ACT testing year

SAT National Test Dates

Aug. 26, 2023*	July 28, 2023	Aug. 15, 2023
Oct. 7, 2023*	Sept. 8, 2023	Sept. 26, 2023
Nov. 4, 2023*	Oct. 6, 2023	Oct. 24, 2023
Dec. 2, 2023*	Nov. 3, 2023	Nov. 21, 2023

* projected dates and deadlines for the 2023–24 SAT testing year

Visit with us at the Kentucky State Fair

Kentuckians attending the state fair in Louisville Aug. 18–28 can pick up free student financial aid information at KHEAA’s College Info Road Show booth in the South Wing of the Kentucky Exposition Center.



This year is the 25th Anniversary of the College Info Road Show, and we’re celebrating at the state fair with a selfie booth. Snap and share your selfie!



Also at the fair this year, students and parents can register to win a \$529 college savings account from KY Saves 529, the state’s official education savings plan, administered by KHEAA. For more information on the program, got to [KYSaves.com](https://www.kysaves.com).

KHEAA staff will be on hand to answer questions from students, parents, school counselors and other college access providers.

Visitors to KHEAA’s booth can pick up free copies of The College Circuit, Thriving in College, Adults Returning to School and other publications.

Stop by!



Kentucky State Fair

August 17–27



KY Saves 529

(Kentucky Educational Savings Plan Trust)

Description:

Helps families save for a relative's education. The KY Saves 529 plan offers investment options designed to help families meet future education costs — even K-12 tuition. Details are on www.kysaves.com.

Account earnings are exempt from Kentucky taxes, and any withdrawal used for qualified education expenses are free from federal income taxes as well. Account savings can be used for any qualified expense (see program description for details).

Contact:

877-598-7878 or 855-840-4855

www.kysaves.com



Serving Kentucky students



KHEAA and KHESLC provide Kentucky's only state-based alternative loans, with low fixed-interest rates, no fees and flexible payment plans to save you money.

Apply online at [AdvantageEducationLoan.com](https://www.advantageeducationloan.com) or call 800-988-6333 for more information.

KHEAA KHESLC

**ADVANTAGE
Education Loan**

