



FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION CABINET  
KENTUCKY HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY

Matthew G. Bevin  
Governor

P.O. Box 798  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40602-0798  
Phone: 1.800.928.8926  
Fax: 502.696.7373  
www.kheaa.com

William M. Landrum III  
Secretary

Eugene P. Hutchins  
Executive Director

Contact: Tim Ballard  
Phone: 502-696-7372  
Email: tballard@kheaa.com

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Joplin Rice named KHEAA outreach counselor for South Central region**

**FRANKFORT, Ky. (May 16, 2018)** — Joplin Rice is the new outreach counselor for the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) in South Central Kentucky.

His region encompasses Casey, Clark, Estill, Garrard, Jackson, Laurel, Lee, Lincoln, Madison, Owsley, Powell, Pulaski and Rockcastle counties.

“I am grateful to have been given an opportunity to help students from my home get access to the resources they need to have fulfilling and successful futures,” Rice said. “South Central Kentucky is where I was born and raised, and I look forward to giving back to the region.”

His parents are both school administrators in Powell County, he said, so serving educational needs in the area runs in the family.

In addition to schools, Rice will work with adult education centers, state agencies and other groups. He can be reached at jrice@kheaa.com or (502) 229-1147.

“Joplin has done an excellent job as a college coach at Powell County High School, and we are so glad he is joining our outreach team so he can use that knowledge to help students and families in his region,” KHEAA Director of Outreach Services Kim Dolan said.

Rice has a bachelor’s degree in English from the University of Kentucky and is working on a master’s in social work at UK.

KHEAA is the state agency that administers the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES), need-based grants and other programs to help students pay their higher education expenses.

For more information about Kentucky scholarships and grants, visit [www.kheaa.com](http://www.kheaa.com); write KHEAA, P.O. Box 798, Frankfort, KY 40602; or call 800-928-8926, ext. 6-7214.

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