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Community & Technical College

THE STAR NEWS

Bluegrass Community & Technical College Fall 2011 Educational Talent Search

ETS Summer Review

This summer, Educational Talent Search was busy celebrating a year of accomplishments, visiting college campuses, exploring careers, and making our annual pilgrimage to King's Island. The fun began in May as we honored our departing seniors at our Senior Celebration and Family Night at Crestwood Christian Church. Heartfelt speeches by our graduates and a feast catered by Golden Corral brought the school year to a successful close.



Our annual Middle School
Camp focused on healthy lifestyles with a theme of
"Healthy Life, Healthy You."
We began by learning about
some of the careers in several
health professions and were
able to ask questions of some
people who actually work in
the field. We toured Cincinnati State's Culinary Division
and saw culinary students at
work, we toured Jungle Jim's
International Market and some

our students were courageous enough to try a cheese flavored worm (it was dehydrated and edible of course)! We also completed some community service projects with the Catholic Action Center and had a tour of Shriner's Hospital for Children.

Our campers then developed their own cookbooks (full of recipes for healthy meals and snacks), made a healthy treat for us to share, designed a Zumba routine (to model how exercise can be fun), and created a healthy choices poster, all of which turned out fantastic! If you would like to see the results of their hard work, you only need to call and we will send you a copy of their projects.



ETS Middle School Camp Community Service Project

Our college visits brought us to Eastern Kentucky University, the University of Kentucky Bluegrass Community and Technical College, and Northern Kentucky University. The incredible heat did nothing to stop the enthusiasm of all our participants. Thank you for making this a very gratifying and rewarding summer!

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College Profile—University of Louisville

The University of Louis-ville is a state supported research university located in Kentucky's largest metropolitan area. It was a municipally supported public institution for many decades prior to joining the university system in 1970. The University has three campuses. The 287-acre Belknap Campus is three miles from downtown

Louisville and houses seven of the university's 11 colleges and schools. The Health Sciences Center is situated in downtown Louisville's medical complex and houses the university's health related programs and the University of Louisville Hospital. The 243-acre Shelby Campus is located in eastern Jefferson County.

When founded in 1798, it was the first city-owned public university in the United States and one of the first universities chartered west of the Allegheny Mountains. U of L currently reports more than 22,200 students enrolled, and more than 6,200 faculty and staff. The U of L mission statement states that "The University of Louisville shall be a premier, nationally recognized metropolitan research university with a commitment to



Belknap Campus is considered the school's main campus and is located south of downtown Louisville.

the liberal arts and sciences and to the intellectual, cultural, and economic development of our diverse communities and citizens through the pursuit of excellence in five interrelated strategic areas: (1) Educational Experience, (2) Research, Creative, and Scholarly Activity, (3) Accessibility, Diversity, Equity, and Communication, (4) Partnerships

and Collaborations, and (5) Institutional Effectiveness of Programs and Services."

The University of Louisville offers bachelor's degrees in 70 fields of study, master's degrees in 78 fields of study, and doctorate degrees in 22 fields of study. The average ACT score is 24.5 and the average tuition including room and board is \$32,740.00 annually. U of L offers academic scholarships and aid to their students along with accepting KEES

U of L offers academic scholarships and aid to their students along with accepting KEES Scholarships. Scholarships. If you would like more information about visiting, applying or any of U of L's student resources, contact the Office of Admissions at (502) 852-6531 or go online at http://louisville.edu/admissions.



ETS Fall & Spring 2 0 1 1 - 2 0 1 2

Family Nights:

10.20.2011

12.08.2011 01.26.2012

03.08.2012

05.17.2012 Sr. Recognition

College Spotlight Visits:

10.15.2011 @ U of L 11.5.2011 @ Kentucky State 01.21.2012 @ EKU

Spring Break Trip:

04.02.2012 - 04.05.2012

Excellent Student Celebration: 06.28.2012

Middle School Camp: 06.11.12-06.14.12

High School Overnight: 06.21.12-06.22.12

ACT Test Prep Workshops:

10.08.2011

College Major—Civil Engineering

Civil Engineering, considered by many to be the oldest engineering discipline, encompasses many specialties, including construction; geotechnical, environmental and structural design; transportation; urban planning; and water resource management. Civil engineering majors need to feel comfortable in multiple disciplines within science and math. They also need to have a strong ability to visualize, assemble, and create solutions to practical problems. The ability to think creatively and analyze complex situations is a must.

Many undergraduate civil engineering programs are beginning to take a 5-year approach, with the outcome being a Master of Engineering degree, instead of the basic bachelor's degree. The fifth year may seem like an extra hassle at the outset, but the result is better training, preparation, and more job opportunities. Most undergraduate civil engineering programs also include some sort of on-the-job learning, practicums or internships with companies in the field. Not only do these opportunities enhance learning – but they also can result in some valuable professional ties that can translate into jobs right after graduation!

If you think you might be interested in pursuing a degree in civil engineering, make sure you are taking plenty of ad-

College Major- Civil Engineering—continued from page 2

vanced math and science courses, especially physics, chemistry, and calculus. Additionally, think about taking a few classes in materials fabrication, construction, welding, or masonry either at your school or at a regional technical center. If you can't fit these courses into your school day, think about finding hands-on learning opportunities on weekends or during school vacations by working for local construction companies or taking community outreach classes through stores like Lowe's and Home Depot!

And for all you girls out there who might be interested in engineering –

as this is a traditionally maledominated profession, there are lots of scholarships available to promising female students in the field! Just a little something extra to keep in mind!

(some material taken from the University of Louisville's JB Speed School of Engineering website: http://louisville.edu/speed/academics/ departments/civil-engineering.html)





BCTC Talent Search serves 680 middle and high school students from Clark, Fayette, and Scott counties through funding from the US Department of Education. Our purpose is to help our participants:

- **♦** Excel in school
- ♦ Develop awareness of potential careers
- **♦** Experience positive cultural activities
- Understand and pursue postsecondary educational opportunities

The Star News is a quarterly publication of the BCTC Talent Search Project, edited by Dikiea Elery.

Information in this publication was taken from U of L, the College Board, Career Cruising, and other sources as noted; it should not be copied or used for any other purposes.

Career Profile—Urban/City Planner

Career Profile: Urban/City Planner

Wondering who in their right mind suggested the double-diamond interchange on Harrodsburg Road in Lexington? Upset that yet another strip mall has gone in where there used to be a nice green field? Want better use of the land in and around your home and community? Consider a career as an urban or city planner.

City planners figure out the best way to use the land in cities and neighborhoods. They report on the best locations for houses, stores, and parks, and they work tirelessly to solve traffic problems, pollution issues, and ensure ideal accessibility to schools, shopping centers, and other community resources.

Planners work with city officials to figure out how to accommodate growing populations. They might suggest that new schools, roads, or parks be built. They also work to help design growth while saving wetlands, trees, and other natural habitats. They aren't just about concrete and asphalt!

Because their job impacts many citi-

zens, planners have to be able to engage with the public and listen to people. Then, they have to be able to take the ideas, complaints, and opinions they hear and find the best solutions. As they work out their plans and designs, they use computers, make reports, draw maps, and calculate costs. They must work quickly,



but carefully.

Planners usually complete a master's degree program, and there are tests that planners must pass to become fully certified. Most new jobs for planners will be in rapidly expanding communities. The job market is growing faster than average, and the median

income for urban and regional planners is around \$62,400/ year.

If you are good at solving problems, thinking on your feet, and visualizing what plans might look Planners work
with city
officials to
figure out how
to accommodate
growing
populations.

like in reality, urban planning might be a good fit for you. You will need to have strong math, science, and computer skills, and take an interest in your community and its future. If you want to get a head start, attend some open planning meetings held at your city council. Get a summer job or volunteer position with your local government or a local construction agency or engineering firm.

(information adapted from http://www.bls.gov/k12/social05.htm)

The Homework Hot Potato

Check us out on Facebook at: Bluegrass ETS

We at ETS have really enjoyed getting to know some of you and your students this past year. We have worked hard and played hard and it is really paying off. Almost all of our students have progressed to the next grade and most of our graduates have enrolled in a college or university! We are really proud of our ETS students! We look forward to an even better and more successful 2012!

Our ETS students are the greatest, yet even the best students can use a little encouragement from time to time. Sometimes they need A LOT of encouragement to stay on top of their homework assignments or to simply turn their assignments in! As parents our levels of encouragement may vary, but what should be consistent is NOT helping students complete a school assignment or their homework. This is the **homework hot potato!** Do not do it for them! This sounds so easy, but often it is not simple at all.

When students put off their assignment until the eleventh hour, the natural consequence is that they either complete the assignment or they don't. I talk to many parents who are more stressed about their student's assignments then the student seems to be. With so much riding on good grades, like the KEES scholarship for example, it is easy to get swept into the idea that their grades are part of your responsibility too. In the short term, if your student does not make the grades for the KEES scholarship in high school, there are more out of pocket expenses for a college education. In the long term however, your student will learn to pace him/herself, manage time more effectively, take their own work and classes more seriously and most importantly, they will learn that they are ultimately responsible for how successful they are going to be in school and in life!

Financial Aid—CAN YOU HELP ME FIND A SCHOLARSHIP?

ETS advisors hear this question a lot, but the reality of scholarship searching makes it hard to answer. By far, the majority of scholarships and grants are administered by a particular college's financial aid office, and they are people who are best able to match you up with the money for which you qualify. Additional private scholarships are usually not as substantial, but any amount will help pay for your education.

The challenge with private scholarships is that they are typically offered by organizations that set very specific criteria for successful applicants to meet. Because every student's circumstances are unique, you are the only person who knows exactly which criteria match your case. Believe it or not, because of these special criteria, and because information about scholarships comes from many different sources that can be hard to find, a lot of scholarship money goes unclaimed every year.

A great place to look for Kentucky scholarships is at the site www.gohigherky.org, which lets you do personalized searches. Other good web sites include www.finaid.org, www.fastweb.org, and www.collegeboard.org. You have to register for these sites so that they can use your personal information to match you with available scholarships, but they are all free services. Remember, do not EVER pay money to get money for college! There is no "hidden" or "special" information that requires a fee—everything is available for free, and anything else is probably just a scam.

Remember, your school's financial aid office is your best bet for an overall financial aid package, but your own scholarship search efforts can pay off in additional funds if you really work to find the scholarships that are right for you!



Hard work and Determination Pays off in the hunt for Scholarships!!!