



# EOConnections

Educational Opportunity Center  
hosted by Crowder College

## Outstanding TRIO Employee – Connie Patton

October, 2015

During the month of September, Connie Patton, Cassville/Monett Educational Advisor, was named Outstanding TRIO Employee of the Month. Following is a statement from a TRIO staff member regarding Connie’s contributions, *“Connie’s unwavering dedication to her students, her campus and our college are a shining example of servant leadership. Connie has overcome obstacles with grace and a great attitude all the while providing unparalleled customer service.”*

Congratulations, Connie!!!



**Crowder College President, Dr. Methvin presenting Connie with her trophy.**



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## Phi Beta Kapa Nominees



We would like to recognize our EOC Participants who have been asked to join Phi Beta Kappa for Fall 2015.

In order to become of member of PTK, a student must earn a 3.5 or higher grade point average in a semester while taking 12 or more credit hours.

Congratulations to the following nominees:  
Kendra Cole, Jane Hobbs, Karen Hunt, Marissa Leivan, Matthew Long, Ethan Manke, Rosa Montero-Maldonado, Katelyn O'Bryan, Vera Picard, and Joshua Stoddard

Submitted by Nancy Goodwin

## Out and About with EOC

It has been a busy fall! The EOC advisors have been diligently assisting people in completing their Financial Aid Applications and paperwork. Now that classes have begun, advisors are busy implementing various workshops and visiting with different community organizations and high schools.

Natalie Hobdy, Jasper and Newton County advisor, has been conducting both career exploration and financial literacy workshops. The career exploration workshop aids students who do not have a strong career goal in place. The workshop participants are given access to the online Career Occupational Preference System (COPS). The COPS interest inventory consists of a series of items, providing job activity interest scores related to 14 different career clusters. Each cluster corresponds to both high school and college curriculum, as well as current sources of occupational information. After completion of the assessment, each participant will visit with Natalie to review their results and generate ideas for majors and careers to research. The financial literacy workshop provides participants with tools to budget their money and offers different options for financial aid, other than student loans, that may be available.

Connie Patton, Barry and Lawrence County Advisor, has been visiting with different community organizations and local high schools. At the Head Start parent's night, Connie promoted postsecondary education by providing attendees information about college admission and enrollment. At area high schools, Connie presented financial aid Information for high school seniors and their parents in preparation of completing a FAFSA and other financial aid forms due in the spring.

If you are interested in attending an EOC workshop, please call our toll free number, 1-866-822-1362, to find out what workshops are available in your area.

Submitted by Connie Patton





# Important Financial Aid Information

Have you received an e-mail from the financial aid office that looks like this?

Dear Hailee,

**Follow Up Notice – Your financial aid processing is being delayed**

The Financial Aid Office at Crowder College **has received** the following items:

FAFSA

Parent Marital Status-Need Verification

\*FINAL\* High School Trans with Grad Date

If you plan on attending Crowder College for the 2015-2016 academic year you must contact our Financial Aid Office and **supply the following documents:**

Parent 2014 Fed Tax Return Transcript (Not Received)

Form D—Asset Information\* (Not Received)

\*Crowder College documents/worksheets can be printed off of the Crowder College website at [www.crowder.edu](http://www.crowder.edu) under Financial Aid, Verification or can be obtained from any Crowder College location.

Additionally, you must have completed all Admissions Requirements, which includes providing official transcripts from high school, home school, or GED completion, and all previous college transcripts. Official transcripts must be on file before any financial aid awards will be calculated.

If you are interested in applying for a student loan you must complete the 2015-2016 Federal Direct Loan Request, available on our website at [www.crowder.edu](http://www.crowder.edu), and return it to our office.

Please do not assume that if aid papers are accepted from you in our office as preliminary application that you will automatically qualify for payment. If you know or suspect that you have any issues related to previous attendance, you need to be certain that you make that clearly known to the financial aid staff so we can pursue your situation. Please read the financial aid information available on our website to familiarize yourself with the policies, procedures, and limitations relative to financial aid eligibility. Please return the above items as soon as possible.

If you have and you are not certain what steps to take, stop by to visit one of our EOC Advisors. They are familiar with this type of letter and can help you complete and submit the needed information.

**DO NOT IGNORE THIS LETTER OR YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE YOUR FINANCIAL AID.**





# Best Study Tips for College Students

*STUDYING IN PROGRESS!*



Good study habits can make or break your GPA. Use these tips to remember facts and make the grade.

✓ **Good Notes = Good Grades**

There is a strong correlation between good notes and good study habits . Unfortunately, taking good notes doesn't come naturally to everyone. The trick is to record only the details, facts or explanations that expand or explain the main points. Many students also record lectures so they can listen to them later to verify their notes; just make sure you get permission from your professor first!

✓ **Stay Organized**

Keep a detailed calendar with all your commitments, including classwork, social events and extracurricular activities. This way, you can block out time each day to study. Organizing your class materials is also important. Use sticky notes to remember important textbook pages, keep your returned assignments, and make flashcards for key terms.

✓ **Unplug and Reconnect**

This can be tricky! Still, the Internet is the worst distraction there is, and limiting time on it is one of the best study tips for college students. Try to set boundaries for yourself: for example, no Facebook during class or study time.

✓ **Don't Cram**

Cramming increases your anxiety levels, and it's more important that the time you spend studying is effective. Good study habits come from pacing yourself. Try to study a little bit each day, rather than saving it all for the week before the exam.

✓ **Find Your Zone**

Everyone has their perfect study environment. For some, it's a quiet reading room, while others prefer the bustle of a coffee shop. Some like to listen to music while they study, and some need complete silence. Try a few different kinds of environments and see what works for you.

✓ **Take a Break**

Seriously, you've earned it! Take a ten-minute break every hour or so, and try to take a day or two off per week if you can. It is easy to become overwhelmed in college. Taking a break can help you stay energized and at peak mental condition.





## What is a FSA ID? How does it apply to me?

As of May 10, 2015, the Federal Government instituted a new FSA ID to take the place of your FAFSA PIN number. It consists of a username and password that you must create in order to log in to FAFSA or access student loan information. If you are under the age of 24 and are considered a dependent student, your parent will also need to create a FSA ID in order to electronically sign the FAFSA. It is important to realize that your FSA ID acts just like your signature for signing legally binding documents. Be careful not to give it out to anyone or lose it. We would recommend that you write down your FSA ID and password and put this information in your wallet or other secure location.

If you have not logged onto the FAFSA.ed.gov or studentloans.gov since May 10<sup>th</sup>, you will need to create this ID before you can access these pages. If you remember your PIN number, you may use it to save time when setting up your new FSA ID. If you have forgotten it then click on “I forgot my PIN” and attempt to answer your security question. If you cannot remember it, you can move forward without it.

What was the purpose of replacing the PIN with the FSA ID? The main reason for the change was for additional security. Having a user name and password is much more secure than a PIN alone.

One last tip...be sure and enter an e-mail address and then put in your confirmation code to verify that e-mail address. It will make your life much simpler if you ever forget your user name or password. We are always happy to help you at one of our EOC offices to complete your FAFSA, if you would ever like our assistance. We do hundreds of these each year and have experience with even the trickiest situations.

*Information taken from studentaid.ed.gov website*



*Submitted by Natalie Hobdy*



The Educational Opportunity Center (EOC), hosted by Crowder College provides free postsecondary educational assistance to adult residents of Barry, Jasper, Lawrence, McDonald and Newton counties in southwest Missouri.

The Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) program offers one-to-one advisement and information on college admissions and financial aid to qualified adults who want to enter or continue a program of postsecondary education. Important objectives of EOC are to counsel participants on financial aid options, assist in the application process, and increase the number of adult participants who enroll in postsecondary education.

**Services provided by the EOC program include:**

- Assistance with financial aid applications
- College planning and selection
- Academic and career assessments
- Career guidance and counseling
- Student loan default counseling
- Educational workshops

All services are provided free of charge to program participants. The EOC program is federally funded by the U.S. Department of Education.



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We're on the web!  
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