

the **STAR** news

BCTC Talent Search serves 680 middle and high school students from Fayette, Clark 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 Libbe Jefferson.

Information in this publication was taken from Bureau of Labor Statistics, Vanderbilt University, David Shenmaker's 2010 case study and College Board; it should not be copied or used for any other purposes.

## Fall Review/Winter Preview

We hosted our first of three ACT Prep workshops in October, and our next ACT Prep workshop is scheduled for February 1st (weather permitting). This will be an all-day workshop with lunch provided. We strongly encourage all juniors and seniors to participate in the workshop to be better prepared for the actual exam. We just held our annual Financial Aid Night for seniors and their families on January 15th with our sister program Upward Bound, and in December ETS students and staff assisted with the Salvation Army Angel Tree service project in Lexington. Community service is so important, and it was heartwarming to see our students “give back” to the community. The Angel Tree service project was in lieu of our regular format for Family Night, but please remember that our Family Nights are important because they allow us the opportunity to share information with you and for us to get to know one another. So be sure to **MARK YOUR CALENDARS** for our next Family Night on March 12th at the Leestown Campus of Bluegrass Community & Technical College (BCTC) from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing you!

We visited Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) and the University of the Cumberland (UC) where we were able to tour the campuses and meet with some of the university students, staff, and faculty. EKU was a fun-filled day with a lot of information to take in as students participated in the EKU Spotlight Day. We were fortunate to have good weather on both of our college visits, and the campuses were beautiful. Our next college visit is scheduled for March 1st at Transylvania University which will be open to high school students only; so be on the lookout for upcoming registration details and be sure to sign up. Transylvania is a great campus and lunch in their cafeteria is GREAT!

If you have missed visiting campuses with us this year, please try to visit on your own with your parents. It's an important part of the decision making process for you. Where you will live for these four years is crucial to your academic and social success. You want to make sure that you find yourself at a school that fits your needs and that you will be happy at. It's easier to determine this if you've visited several schools so that you can make comparisons. We can give you a list of helpful questions to ask the admissions and financial aid representatives if you need.

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**Bluegrass Community & Technical College**  
**EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH**  
 164 Opportunity Way ~ Lexington KY 40511

**contact**

tel ~ 859.246.6574 ~ 800.625.6678  
 fax ~ 859.246.4656  
 web ~ [bluegrass.kctcs.edu/en/talent\\_search.aspx](http://bluegrass.kctcs.edu/en/talent_search.aspx)  
 Facebook ~ Bluegrass Ets  
 Twitter ~ @BCTCETS

**staff**

**Carol Elrod** director  
**Dikiea Elery** educational advisor  
**Kelli Reno** educational advisor  
**Michelle Sweat** educational advisor  
**Libbe Jefferson** administrative assistant

BCTC is an equal opportunity employer and educational institution.



## UPCOMINGEVENTS

- College Visit 03/01**  
Transylvania University (9th-12th graders only)
- Family Night 03/12**  
BCTC Leestown Campus
- HS Spring Break Trip 03/31-04/01**  
Nashville, TN
- End of year celebration 05/14**  
BCTC Leestown Campus
- Middle School Camp 06/16-06/18**

## GIVE THE GIFT OF READING TO YOUR CHILDREN

Do you want to help your children succeed and be competitive in this global economy? One way to help is to become a book loving family! Helping your student develop a love of reading is one of the best gifts you can give your child. It is a gift that will keep giving for a lifetime!

A study by David Shenkmar (2010), suggests that the most effective way to help your children succeed in school is to introduce them to books. Reading to your children, taking them to the library to choose their own books, and having them read to you or to their younger siblings is a great and fun way to get your family reading. Exposing your children to books by reading to them early and then having them read on their own encourages a love of reading, an expanding vocabulary and an inquisitive mind. Shenkmar's study says that reading is crucial in developing and increasing a child's vocabulary. The larger your child's vocabulary the better prepared and ready he/she will be to learn and understand what they are being taught in school. Reading and a child's vocabulary is directly related to a child's ability to learn.

So, how do you begin? Start where your children are. Bring them to the library and let them choose their own book. They must read it for it to do any good! Make weekly trips to the library where they can get their own library card. Ask the librarians for good choices if your child can't decide where to begin. They are really good resources to get you started.

Your children will begin to choose books with more complexity on their own and if they don't or are overwhelmed by the sheer number of books available, again, ask for the librarians help. There will be subjects that will capture their imaginations more than others. The more information your child can give the librarians about their preferences, the better the librarians will be able to suggest books that they will enjoy reading. The goal is to keep them reading!

Don't forget the librarians at your child's school. They will have a really good feeling for the popular books that other students in the same grade are reading. So, if you want to help your child succeed and develop a love of learning and reading, books are one of the keys to your student's success and a great way to nurture growing minds.

Stay warm. This cold weather is a great time to snuggle up with a good book and a cup of hot chocolate.

*Carol*



**H**ave you ever sat down and observed people? Do you find it fascinating? If so, Psychology may be an interesting field for you. Psychologists study cognitive, emotional, and social processes and human behavior by observing, interpreting, and recording how people relate to one another and their environments. There are several different types of psychologist including clinical, health, neuropsychologist, counseling, developmental, forensic, industrial-organizational, school and social psychologists.

Most psychology fields will require a doctorate degree especially clinical, counseling and research psychologists. Some states will also require a license for you to be a practicing psychologist; all states require psychologists who practice independently to have a license. Information on specific requirements by state can be obtained from the Association of State and Provincial Licensing Boards.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, The median annual wage for psychologists was \$69,280 in May 2012. Overall employment of psychologists is projected to grow 12 percent from 2012 to 2022, about as fast as the average for all occupations. If you are interested in a Psychology career, talk to your guidance counselor or your ETS advisor.



## PSYCHOLOGIST

**G**oing to college presents a unique opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge that will allow you to gain employment and become more financially secure during your lifetime. However as the average cost of college tuition\* continues to rise to almost \$9,000\*\* per year, the dream of attending college is threatening to become more of a fairy tale than a reality... or is it?

Many students and their families find part of the solution to their college financial needs in the form of student loans. For many, the mere mention of taking out a loan for school is enough to make them cringe; however before totally disregarding the idea, consider the facts about student loans.

**Fact 1:** A student loan is money that can be borrowed from the government, a school, or a bank.

**Fact 2:** All loans must be repaid.

**Fact 3:** All student loans are not created equal. There are many types of loans out there and depending upon where you get the loan, the terms, interest rates, and payment options may vary. No matter the loan source, be sure to look for the lowest possible interest rates, determine if an interest rate is variable or fixed, and check the fine print for hidden fees and charges.

**Fact 4:** Applying for student loans offered from the government is your safest bet. Student loan programs such as the Federal Perkins and Stafford loans offer undergraduate students up to \$12,500 per year for college. They also offer low interest rates and repayment grace periods of up to six months until after you have left school or graduated. To learn more about government student loans, please use this guide: <http://studentaid.ed.gov/sites/default/files/federal-loan-programs.pdf>

**Fact 5:** If you are thinking of using a federal loan to cover the cost of college you must fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students wishing to apply for any form of government aid must complete and submit the online form prior to beginning classes at the college or university of their choice. Seniors, remember to submit the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1. You do not have to wait until your taxes are complete. It is ok to estimate your income, as you will have an opportunity to correct any information later. It is recommended that you do your taxes and submit your FAFSA as early as possible. You DO NOT wait until the deadline because funding may run out! For more on FAFSA visit [www.fasfa.ed.gov](http://www.fasfa.ed.gov).

\*Tuition refers to tuition & fees for courses only. This does not include housing, meals, or other expenses.

\*\*Figure represents in-state tuition at a 4-year public university. For additional figures see <http://bit.ly/1dvMIDG>

## COLLEGE PROFILE

**V**ANDERBILT University is a private research university and medical center offering a full-range of undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees. Located a mile and a half southwest of downtown Nashville. Vanderbilt encompasses 330 acres, 234 buildings and is home to more than 300 tree and shrub varieties.



Benson Hall at Vanderbilt

Vanderbilt offers undergraduate programs in the liberal arts and sciences, engineering, music, education and human development, as well as a full range of graduate and professional degrees. The combination of cutting edge research, liberal arts, nationally recognized schools of business and divinity and a distinguished medical center creates an invigorating atmosphere where students tailor their education to meet their goals and researchers collaborate to solve complex questions affecting our health, culture and society.

In addition to academics, Vanderbilt also has more than 300 clubs and organizations including 35 sororities and fraternities. They also offer a variety of sports for students to participate in. For more information, contact The Vanderbilt Admissions office at 1-800-288-0432

Enrollment 2013/2014: 12,795  
Tuition 2013/2014: \$41,928  
Room and Board 2013/2014: \$7,049

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY Nashville, TN

## PSYCHOLOGY

**P**SYCHOLOGY seeks to understand and explain thoughts, emotions, feelings, and behavior. Depending on the topic of study, psychologists use techniques such as observation, assessment, and experimentation to develop theories about the beliefs and feelings that influence a person's actions. Psychologists often gather information and evaluate behavior through controlled laboratory experiments, psychoanalysis, or psychotherapy. They also may administer personality, performance, aptitude, or intelligence tests.

They look for relationships or patterns of behavior between events, and use this information when testing theories in their research or treating patients. There are several different fields of psychologists including clinical, counseling, developmental, forensic, industrial-organizational, school and social psychologists.

In order to become a psychologist, a minimum of a master's degree is required though some fields may require a PhD. A Doctor of Psychology usually includes an exam and a dissertation based on original research though some programs may also require a 1 year internship, practical work and an exam in place of a dissertation. In addition to a degree, a license may be required depending on the state the person plans to practice in. Any psychologist who practices independently must be licensed.

Most clinical and counseling psychologists need a doctorate in psychology, an internship, at least 1 to 2 years of professional experience, and to pass the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology. Information on specific requirements by state can be obtained from the Association of State and Provincial Licensing Boards.



COLLEGE MAJOR