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EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH
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BCTC is an equal opportunity employer and educational institution.

bluegrass community & technical college
SPRING 2014
talent search newsletter

the STAR news

SPRING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER Winter review/spring preview

Despite the cold, the ice, and the snow, Talent Search students and staff have had a winter packed with activity! February began with a well-attended ACT preparation workshop at the BCTC Leestown Campus. Students worked on each section of the test and had a chance to collaborate with each other and their instructors on ways to ensure success – the main ones being read-read-read and practice-practice-practice. Students also had a chance to ask questions about the role ACT scores play in college admissions, scholarships, and future success.

In March, the weather broke just enough to allow us a great trip to Transylvania University. At Transy, students got a chance to tour the downtown Lexington campus, preview academic programs and extracurricular offerings, and learn more about Transy's admissions requirements. A great lunch on campus capped off the day of learning and exploration. Our college exploration continued through March with our "Building a Strong Foundation for College Success" family night program. Students and parents had a chance to hear from BCTC staff and faculty about habits and skills that help ensure college success, as well as ask their own questions about classroom expectations, student-faculty relationships, and other aspects of college life. A big thanks goes out to Raising Cane's for their donation of chicken fingers for the event.

Now that Spring has officially begun, it's time for the Talent Search fun to begin. We're off to Nashville March 31st - April 1st for our high school Spring Break overnight trip, featuring visits to three colleges and a little glimpse of "Music City" at the Country Music Hall of Fame. On May 14th, we'll be hosting our annual End of Year Celebration where we laud our graduating Seniors and send them off in style! All of our families and students are invited to attend, as this night celebrates the end of another successful school year for all.

Not long after the school year officially ends, we will host our summer Middle School Camp, June 16th-18th. Please note, we are changing up the format a little for this year. Instead of hosting an overnight experience, we will operate as a **day camp**. Participants will be dropped off each of the three mornings, and picked up each of the three evenings. We hope this will allow us to focus more resources on providing some excellent programming, including leadership training, STEM projects, and two college visits. Look for invitations to go out in early May, and please don't hesitate to contact the office with any questions or concerns.

Without the participation of our students and their families, we wouldn't have half as much fun as we do! Thank you for your enthusiasm, and here's to a wonderful spring and summer for Talent Search!



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Break Overnight 03/31
Nashville, TN 04/01

End of year celebration 05/14
BCTC Leestown

Middle School Camp 06/15-
06/18

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.

MAKE YOUR SUMMER COUNT

Dear Parents:

Happy Spring! We have warmer weather and I hope that you and your family are enjoying the sun and warmth after this very COLD winter. I know I am!

Spring should signal the start of planning for summer activities for your student. Whether your child is in the 7th or the 12th grade, don't let the opportunity of the summer months pass them by! Summer is a really important time to get involved with activities that will enhance your student's ability to gain entrance into the college of their choice and to become more attractive for competitive scholarships for college!

Soon, the hospitals will be selecting and training their Teen Volunteers for different departments within the hospitals. LFUCG will be hiring students for work in their summer camps and community pools, and there will be opportunities to get involved with summer programs for youth. If you are interested in these volunteer opportunities and more, please call 2-1-1 for a complete listing. You may also call our office for more information.

Visit nearby colleges and schedule a tour with the Admissions Office. This will be invaluable as students begin to decide which college(s) are a good fit for them. If you travel this summer, plan to tour a college or two in the area. We have a list of questions that you need to be thinking about and asking so you can learn as much as you can about that college. College visits with admissions staff show a demonstrated interest and can be a factor in the admissions decision!

Many tryouts for school activities and groups happen in the summer months. Make sure, if your student is interested, that you know when these tryout dates are. Have your student start an activities record if they haven't already. Include all school and community activities, honors, awards, unique educational experiences, leadership positions, volunteer work and employment.

Do not let your student sit around the house this summer. Get them involved in an activity that will help them build a solid resume for their future!

Make your summer count!

Carol

careersPOTLIGHT

Interior designers make interior spaces functional, safe, and beautiful by determining space requirements and selecting decorative items, such as colors, lighting, and materials. They read blueprints and must be aware of building codes and inspection regulations. Interior designers must be creative and able to collaborate with others.

There are several different types of interior designers including sustainable, universal, kitchen & bath and lighting designers. Sustainable designers use strategies to improve energy and water efficiencies and indoor air quality, and they specify environmentally preferable products, such as bamboo and cork for floors. Universal designers renovate spaces to make them accessible. This is especially important for those who are elderly and those with physical disabilities. Kitchen & bath designers specialize in kitchens and bathrooms and have expert knowledge of the variety of cabinets, fixtures, appliances, plumbing, and electrical solutions for these rooms. Lighting designers focus on the effect of lighting for home, office, and public spaces. Lighting designers work quite a bit in stage productions, on photography sets and in museums.

In order to become an interior designer, a bachelor's degree with a focus in interior design from a college or university that is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design is required. Depending on the state that you live in, you may or may not need a license to do interior design work. The exam to become a licensed interior designer is the National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ) exam. Qualifications to take the exam include a combination of education and experience.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, jobs for interior designers are expected to grow about 13 percent between 2012 and 2022 which is about as fast as average. The median annual salary for an interior decorator is \$47,600.



INTERIOR DESIGNER

An education beyond high school is an investment in your future. It can be expensive and often requires you or your family to take out loans to help pay for it. 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: Student loans fall into two categories, federal loans and private loans.

- ◆ Federal loans, which are subject to oversight and regulation by the federal government, include:
 - ◇ Direct Loans, where the U.S. Department of Education is the lender;
 - ◇ Federal Family Education Loans (FFEL), where private lenders make loans backed by the federal government; and
 - ◇ Federal Perkins Loans.
- ◆ Private loans, sometimes referenced as “alternative loans,” are offered by private lenders and do not include the benefits and protections available with federal loans.

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 \$14,000 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.

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, if you have not already completed the FAFSA, please do it immediately! Every second that you wait may mean hundreds of dollars lost towards your college education. For more information please visit www.fasfa.ed.gov

***Information obtained in this article comes A joint publication of the Federal Trade Commission and the U.S. Department of Education found at: <http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0160-student-loans>*

COLLEGE PROFILE

Western Kentucky University is a large public university located in a small rural city in western Kentucky. WKU is home to many highly ranked and nationally-recognized academic programs such as Journalism and Broadcasting, Education, Engineering, Business and their award winning speech and debate team. With steady enrollment growth for 15 consecutive years, more than 21,100 students grace their campuses in Bowling Green, Glasgow, Owensboro and the Elizabethtown area.



As the 3rd largest city in Kentucky and the dining and shopping mecca for a dozen surrounding counties, Bowling Green is brimming with restaurant and splurging options. Bowling Green is located just 60 miles north of Nashville and 110 miles south of Louisville.

WKU has several clubs, organizations and sports programs that students can participate in. Some of these include sororities, fraternities, basketball, swimming & diving, tennis and cross country. WKU's mascot is Beg Red and the school colors are red and white.

Costs for 2013-2014:

Tuition - \$4,361

Room & Board - \$3,807

For more information, contact the WKU Admissions office at (270) 745-2551 or talk to your ETS advisor.

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY Bowling Green, KY

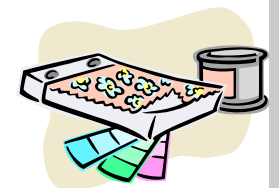
INTERIOR DESIGN

Interior designers work closely with architects, structural engineers, mechanical engineers, and builders to determine how interior spaces will function, look, and are furnished. Interior designers read blueprints and must be aware of building codes and inspection regulations. Some interior decorators may use drawings, but many have moved to using computer-aided design to assist them. Interior designers must also have the following skills: artistic ability, creativity, be detail oriented, have interpersonal skills, have problem solving skills and have great visualization skills.

In order to become an interior designer, a bachelor's degree with a focus in interior design from a college or university that is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design is required. Depending on the state that you live in, you may or may not need a license to do interior design work. Some states only allow licensed designers do interior design work while other states allow both licensed and unlicensed designers to interior design work but only those with a license may use the title interior designer. In other states, both licensed and unlicensed designers may call themselves interior designers and do interior design work.

The exam to become a licensed interior designer is the National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ) exam. Qualifications to take the exam include a combination of education and experience. This usually includes a bachelor's degree and two years of experience. You may also obtain a master's degree in interior design. The Council for Interior Design Accreditation accredits more than 150 schools with professional interior design programs.

If you are interested in getting a degree in interior design, talk to your ETS advisor. For more information, visit the National Association of Schools of Art Design at www.nasad.arts-accredit.org/



COLLEGE MAJOR