

Career College Day at the Capitol

This February, KACCS hosted Career College Day at the Capitol in Frankfort. Students from Kentucky’s career colleges took a break from the classroom to put practical skills they are learning on display for state lawmakers at the event. Students in attendance were able to gain additional hands-on experience and demonstrate skills learned in the classroom, while sharing stories of their educational experiences with their local leaders. Legislators and staff members also benefited by gaining a greater understanding about the wide range of career focused degrees offered and the role these schools play in preparing students for the 21st century workforce. Fourteen schools, 31 legislators and numerous staff members and special guests attended the event this year. Students offered a variety of health screenings including blood pressure, cholesterol, spirometry and blood pressure. Culinary arts, dental assisting, surgical technology, project management and advanced manufacturing

technology programs were also featured. State Representative David Hale, one of the attendees at the event, said he is always happy to lend his support to career college students. “It’s just great to be a part of this,” he stated. “I like to see these career colleges; they offer a great service to people in our state.” Stephanie Walker, National College’s Louisville campus surgical

technology director, also attended the event. She said the event is important because, “nobody knows what a surgical technologist is or what they do... They don’t know that you’re physically shoulder-to-shoulder with the surgeon, elbow deep with the patients, helping out...I think it’s always important to inform legislators about careers like ours...because you don’t get a lot of backing if nobody knows what you do.”



College for Technical Education medical assisting student, Quiana Hudgens with Representative Kim King



Beckfield College nursing student with Representative Martha Jane King



National College campus director, Vincent Tinebra, surgical technology students Marlen Estrada Navarrete and Ebelyn Noguera Labrada and Representative Dennis Horlander



Sullivan University culinary student with Josh Nacey, Legislative Research Commission staff member and Representative James Kay

Inside this issue:

<i>President’s Corner</i>	2
<i>Legislative Update</i>	2
<i>HOSA Competition</i>	3
<i>Career Fair</i>	3
<i>School Accredited</i>	3
<i>Scholarship</i>	4
<i>Student Success</i>	4
<i>KACCS Video</i>	5
<i>Save the Date</i>	5
<i>Online Training Center</i>	5
<i>KACCS Membership</i>	6

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President's Corner

The winter quarter was an active season for our association, both at a local and federal level. Our team has been diligent in their efforts to continue educating our leadership on the importance of our sector during this time. We prepare and train working adults to fill skills gaps. The fast paced programs we offer are essential for preparing students for the careers they want and need. Options in higher learning are important, not only in the health of our Nation's workforce, but also in meeting the diverse needs of students. Our students are looking for skilled positions and often their life styles don't afford them the luxury of a lengthy daytime college experience. They need work quickly and the role

we play in preparing them for a career is vital. Nearly every college and university in the country, across all sectors of postsecondary education, has been affected by the avalanche of regulations issued by the administration over the past six years. In 2013, a bipartisan group of U.S. Senators formed a taskforce to review higher education regulations in preparation for the pending reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA). A February 2015 report publishing their findings, *Recalibrating Regulation of Colleges and Universities: Report of the Task Force on Federal Regulation of Higher Education*, states, "oversight of higher education by the Department of Education has expanded and evolved in ways that un-

dermine the ability of colleges and universities to serve students and accomplish their missions." The report goes on to state that, "as a result, colleges and universities find themselves enmeshed in a jungle of red tape, facing rules that are often confusing and difficult to comply with. They must allocate resources to compliance that would be better applied to student education, safety, and innovation in instructional delivery."

The U.S. Department of Labor predicts that the skills gap will only continue to increase and, over the next 30 years, there will be a shortage of more than 35 million skilled workers. This prediction does not take into account these

harmful regulations. Considering the state of our nation's economy and unemployment rate, we should be looking at ways to expand student access rather than reducing it. For these reasons, KACCS recently submitted a letter of support for S. 559 and H.R. 970, *Supporting Academic Freedom through Regulatory Relief Act*. These bills would repeal Obama administration regulations relating to the following until Congress passes reauthorization of the Higher Education Act:

- ♦ College Ratings System,
- ♦ State Authorization,
- ♦ Definition of a, "credit hour,"
- ♦ Gainful Employment,
- ♦ Teacher Preparation,
- ♦ And Third-Party Education Services.

Contact us today for additional information or to get more involved.

Jan Gordon, President
jgordon@spencerian.edu

Legislative Update: 2015 General Assembly Completed

The 2015 session of the General Assembly has just concluded. KACCS had a successful session. Working with our members, we were able to add language to HB 92, which governs the licensing of alcohol and drug counselors. The new language allows these counselors to be licensed if they receive their training from a regionally

or nationally accredited institution. KACCS is currently working on a number of fronts to eliminate the bias against national accreditation in Kentucky's professional licensing laws. Our efforts will continue throughout the interim and on into the next session.

KACCS also tracked a number of bills concern-

ing dual credit, as well as the distribution of KEES money. None of these bills passed, but HB 67, which would have created a statutory definition of, "on-track to graduate," for KEES scholarships came close. HB 67 failed on a Senate floor vote.

Both of these issues are ongoing and we expect them to reemerge in

2016.

Our annual legislative day was a huge success with 31 legislators in attendance. We expect to host another event in 2016 because this is a great way to demonstrate to members of the General Assembly the types of programs our schools offer. For additional information on any of these issues, contact Greg Brotzge at gbrotzge@impactgovrelations.com

Students Take Top Honors at HOSA Competition

Spencerian's Health Occupation Student Association (HOSA) members swept the Kentucky State HOSA competition this year. Spencerian students took first place in every event in which they competed. They competed against 133 other collegiate competitors for state competition and brought home the gold. Adrienne Wolf took first place in medical math,

Schatzi Fry took first place in medical law and ethics, Christa Fry took first place in medical terminology, and Samantha Nation, Spencerian's HOSA President, took first place in nutrition. Spencerian also won a second place award for outstanding attendance and the largest secondary chapter in the state. Spencerian's winners will soon travel to Cali-

fornia to represent Kentucky at the national HOSA competition. We con-

gratulate them on their recent wins and wish them well in California!



Schatzi Fry, Christa Fry, Lisa Tipton (faculty), Adrienne Wolf and Treeva Baisas (faculty).

Not pictured: Samantha Nation

Record Breaking Career Fair Event Yields 27 Student Interviews

The Career Services department at Spencerian College's Louisville campus recently hosted a Career Fair for current students and alumni. The event provided the opportunity to learn about various career opportunities and meet in-person with employers who are hiring in their field of study. With 44 companies (a total of 78 employer representatives) and 72 students and

alumni present, attendance was record-breaking. The Career Services department had to expand the event to meet the capacity. Employers enjoyed chair massages in their down time, compliments of the Massage Therapy department and there was a drawing for a gift certificate to The Bakery at Sullivan University.

Twenty-three interviews

were conducted on site at the event and an additional 4 were scheduled. A recent graduate from Spencerian's Clinical Assistant program stated that, "the career fair brought good results. I spoke with Kentucky One Health HR. I applied for a position and had an interview soon after. I've been hired full time."

Overall, the Career

Fair is a great networking opportunity. The Career Services department will host another Career Fair in the summer of 2015.



KACCS School Becomes Accredited by ABHES

At a conference for the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) this February, KACCS member school, Medical Career & Technical College (MCTC), received notice of their approval as an accredited institution. ABHES' mission is to, "enhance the

quality of education and training and promote institutional and programmatic accountability through systematic and consistent program evaluation." In a comprehensive site visit prior to approval, the school received zero citations.

ABHES is a national accreditor. National accreditors deliberately develop and apply standards to institutions that, through intent and disclosure, seek to prepare students for employment in professional, technical and occupational fields.

The school was also recently notified that they are Kentucky's first college to receive NAVTA approval for their Veterinary Assistant program. Congratulations to the MCTC team!

Sullivan University Announces Active Heroes Scholarship for Military Veterans

Sullivan University has announced the establishment of an Active Heroes Scholarship that will assist military veterans.

The announcement was made by Sullivan University President, Glenn Sullivan, during the February 27th Active Heroes Military Family Community Center ribbon cutting ceremony. Active Heroes is a non-profit organization dedicated to connecting and helping America's military families through physical and mental therapy, home repairs, community outreach, financial assistance and community reintegration.

"Sullivan University is proud to announce the Active Heroes Scholarship," President Sullivan said. "Sullivan University offers many degrees, programs and opportunities that assist veterans to prepare for fulfilling careers after military service, with emphasis on business technology-related fields.

"Our fundamental objective is to enhance the educational and professional development of veterans," President Sullivan said. "They served our country; we want to do what we can to serve them and their families."

Jorge A. Pazmino, Military Admissions Officer for Sullivan University, said connecting with veterans groups such as Active Heroes, "brings a fresh approach to our mission of serving and educating members of the military.

"Education is the passport to much better opportunities in life," Pazmino said. "Every day, 22 veterans commit suicide due to issues associated with social anxiety, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and hard times after leaving mili-

tary service. Active Heroes dedicates their efforts to reducing this alarming rate."

Sullivan University's long partnership with and commitment to active duty, reserve and veteran military personnel includes operating a campus at Fort Knox in Kentucky for more than 30 years. In addition, the Sullivan University System is currently educating nearly 500 GI Bill beneficiaries. Last year 12 veterans enrolled at the university through the relationship with Active Heroes.

From Extern to Certified Medical Assistant to Clinical Manager

Heather Patrick has seen big changes in the medical field during her twelve years working at Richmond Women's Health Care as a certified medical assistant (CMA). "The medical assisting career is changing tremendously from year to year. From insurance to how we treat patients - it's totally different," she said.

Heather first began working in the practice as an extern during her medical assisting program at the National College Richmond campus. After completing

her externship and graduating from National College, she was hired by Richmond Women's Health as a CMA, and later was promoted to clinical manager of the practice.

Heather feels that hard work, her passion for the medical field, and the foundation of knowledge that she gained at National, under the instruction of director of health care education Paula Beth Ciolek, have all contributed to her career advancement. "It's a learning process," she said. "Even though I learned what I

needed to know in school twelve years ago, I still learn something new every day."

Heather was so pleased with her education at National that she recently hired fellow National College graduate, Jessica Green, who is working as a registered medical assistant in the practice. She feels that Jessica is a great addition to the staff and that they will both enjoy a long and rewarding career with Richmond Women's Health Care. "This place is great. We work for great doctors...and

most of us are like family here," Heather said. "I love what I do. I will be here as long as I can."



National College graduate Heather Patrick, (L) the clinical manager of Richmond Women's Health Care, recently hired fellow National College graduate Jessica Green (R) to work in the practice as a registered medical assistant



KENTUCKY ASSOCIATION OF CAREER COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

KACCS Video Now Available

Today, only one-third of Kentuckians aged 25-34 have a post-secondary degree. Skilled jobs across the Commonwealth remain unfilled despite higher state unemployment rates than the national average. In this new economic reality, Kentucky's career colleges are playing a vital role in filling this career-skills gap.

Through flexible scheduling, career-focused programs, online options and program availability, Kentucky career colleges pro-

vide students with job-specific education in high-demand fields, preparing them to move immediately into the workforce upon graduation. KACCS recently created an information video discussing the needs of the workforce and interviewed students, graduates, employers and faculty members to discuss the impact career colleges have had on their lives and in our local workforce.

Students and graduates discussed why they

chose a career college among the many higher education options. Sarah Spurling, MedQuest College student shared, "This (program) gets me in, it gets me out, I've got my foot through the door and I can start my life."

Employers and professionals in the field discussed the value of the education these students receive. Amy Masters, RN, Surgical Services Educator for Baptist Health in Richmond, stated in the video, "I would recommend a ca-

reer college. They get that hands on experience. It's more than what they just might get through a university. They will really get that daily hands on education that they really need to go out and get that job." Mark Salmon, Human Resources Director for The Brown Hotel, stated, "The faculty and staff have worked in the field, they have that experience...It's a great practical application." To watch these videos or to learn more, visit the KACCS website.



SAVE THE DATE

Kentucky Association of Career Colleges & Schools
2015 Educational Conference and Annual Meeting

Friday, August 21, 2015 • 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (ET)

Sullivan University, 3101 Bardstown, Road, Louisville, KY

Look for additional details and registration information in July!

Also look for Instructor of the Year nomination forms on the KACCS website in June!

New Courses Available on the KACCS Online Training Center

CS202 - Best Practices in Graduate Employment Verification & Documentation is a brand new online course available in the KACCS Online Training Center. It is prudent for institutions to fortify their graduate employment verification programs by critically evaluating their processes, implementing best practices, adopting consistent

documentation standards, and training all staff involved in the graduate employment verification process documenting that training has occurred. This course can help institutions:

- ◆ strengthen their employment verification program to achieve the highest level of data integrity
- ◆ Gain stakeholder

- buy-in with verification programs by training staff to use benefit-focused communication
- ◆ Use best practices in records management, reduce documentation errors, and avoid common documentation mistakes
- ◆ Implement a standardized case note model that can miti-

gate risk and improve student service quality and use best practices when fixing errors and making edits to hardcopy student case notes.

Learn more about this course by visiting the KACCS Online Training Center at www.kaccstraining.org. Members, contact KACCS for VIP discount codes on online courses.

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Share Your Stories With Us!

To have your organization highlighted in a future KACCS newsletter, please submit your story ideas and best practices for consideration to candacebenschel@kycareercolleges.org. The deadline for the next KACCS Newsletter is Monday, June 15th.

KACCS

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