



# Pathway to Success

January-March 2008

Central Kansas  
Educational Opportunity  
Center



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## Featured Participant of the Quarter

Terri Colgate entered the Junction City Work Force Center over two years ago. She was interested in taking computer classes and hoping to find work. The Work-Force Center employees referred her to EOC. Terri is very thankful for their assistance.

If it had not been for the EOC program and the advisors, she believes she would not have started school again. The advisors took her to the college to take the compass test and to enroll. The fact that Terri had been out of school so long, "the idea of going back to college was scary, but EOC personnel lessened my fears and today I

am a graduate of Barton County Community College". Terri graduated from Barton on December 5, 2008 with an Associate of Arts Degree.

Not only did Terri find schooling assistance through EOC, she also found a full time job which she still enjoys. That job just happens to be the Secretary and Data Specialist for the Junction City EOC.

Terri, who graduated from high school in 1987, is a single mother of three girls, Ariana, Kaylee, and Paige, ages 14, 10, and 8. The family enjoys fishing, camping, and road trips.

CKEOC receives free merchandise when ordering supplies from

vendors. The staff at C K E O C feels these gifts should go to the participants who have shown perseverance through the sometimes difficult task of staying in school. We at CKEOC wish to acknowledge their accomplishments.



**Terri Colgate**

Congratulations, Terri Colgate, we would like to honor you by presenting a gift for your hard work and efforts you have put forth to obtain your educational goals. Keep up the good work!

## CKEOC Office Locations

### Great Bend

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## Considering a Welding Career?

Six out of every ten welding, soldering, and brazing workers are found in manufacturing. Jobs are concentrated in motor vehicle body and parts, ship and boat building, agriculture, construction, and mining machinery. Employment of welding, soldering, and brazing workers is expected to grow more slowly from 2004-2014.



**The welding profession is “hot”.**

Despite this, job prospects should be excellent as employers report difficulty finding enough qualified people. In addition, many openings are expected to arise as a large number of workers retire over the next decade. The average hourly pay for welders in the US is \$16.74, and in Kansas is \$15.48. According to Coffeyville Community College, the average starting monthly pay is \$3,376.

The requirements for welding workers can range from a few weeks training in school or on-the-job for low-skilled positions, to several years of combined school and on-the-job training. There are currently 11 schools in Kansas offering welding curriculum. Contact an Academic Advisor for more information.

—Occupational Outlook Handbook 2006-2007

## Practical Information About The LPN.

Licensed practical nurses (LPNs), care for the sick, injured, convalescent, and disabled under the direction of physicians and registered nurses.

All States and the District of Columbia require LPNs to pass a licensing examination, known as the NCLEX-PN, after completing a State-approved practical nursing program. A high school diploma or its equivalent usually is required for entry, although some programs accept candidates without a diploma, and some are designed as part of a high school curriculum.

Approximately 1,200 State-approved programs provided training in practical nursing. Most training programs are available from technical and vocational schools, or from community and junior colleges. Other programs are available

through high schools, hospitals, and colleges and universities.

Most practical nursing programs last about 1 year and include both classroom study and supervised clinical practice.

Employment of LPNs is expected to grow about as fast as average for all occupations through 2014 in response to the long-term care needs of an increasing elderly population and the general growth of health care services. Replacement needs will be a major source of job openings, as many workers leave the occupation permanently.

Employment of LPNs in nursing care facilities is expected to



grow about as fast as average because of the growing number of aged and disabled persons in need of long-term care. In addition, LPNs in nursing care facilities will be needed to care for the increasing number of patients who have been discharged from the hospital but who have not recovered enough to return home.

Median annual earnings of licensed practical nurses were \$33,970 in May 2004. The middle 50 percent earned between \$28,830 and \$40,670.

—Occupational Outlook Handbook 2006-2007

**Training lasting about 1 year is available in about 1,200 State-approved programs.**

## Soup for the Soul

### “I Passed the Test!”

I was just eighteen years old when I entered nursing school, easily the youngest member of my class. Consequently, I was the subject of a great deal of teasing and good-natured ribbing from my classmates, many of whom were single mothers and older women returning to school for a second career.

Unfortunately, I became ill one week and missed a crucial test on the subject of mental health. This was particularly important to me since I planned to enter the mental-health field once I became a full-fledged nurse. Being a serious student, I

**“...I planned to enter the mental-health field once I became a full-fledged nurse.”**

immediately scheduled a time to re-test and began cramming for this exam. My fellow classmates knew how important this exam was to me and encouraged me as much as possible.

On the day of my test, as scheduled, I came to the classroom an hour early where one of my instructors administered the test. It was indeed a difficult exam, with more than one hundred questions pertaining to brain development and the latest trends in mental health. My intense study served me well and, in less than forty minutes, I passed the test with flying colors.



Anxious to share my test results with my fellow students, I ran to the hospital coffee shop where we students spent our free time with members of the hospital support staff. As soon as I entered the coffee shop, I cried out in a loud voice, “I passed my mental retardation test!”

As I looked around the busy coffee shop, I could not find any of my classmates. Instead, a group of maintenance men, with confused looks on their faces, rose to give me a standing ovation.

—Paula Lopez-Crespin

#### Remaining ACT Testing Dates:



April 12, 2008 (must have been registered prior to March 7, late registration dates were March 8-21). June 14, 2008. (must be registered prior to May 9, late registration dates May 10-23).

Please keep in mind regular registration dates require the regular fee. Late registration will require a late fee. You can register online at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org).

#### Financial Aid Submission:

Now is the time to complete financial aid. FAFSA deadline is June 30, 2008 for the 2007-2008 school year.

#### Services We Offer:

Whether you are a current participant enrolled in classes, or a past participant not attending, you may or may not be aware of all the services we offer.

Our free services include:

- ◆ Scholarship assistance.
- ◆ Assistance with FAFSA completion.
- ◆ Career exploration and advising.
- ◆ Information about vocational/technical schools, colleges, and universities.
- ◆ Assistance with applying for admission.

- ◆ Transportation to campus visits.
- ◆ Career networking with professionals currently working in your field of interest.
- ◆ Reference library including career, educational, financial, and self-help topics that include books, videos, and audio tapes available for check-out.
- ◆ Laptop program for participants enrolled full-time who do not have access to a home computer (subject to availability).
- ◆ Assessment of academic skills



## Reminders



1025 Main  
Great Bend, KS 67530  
Phone: 620-793-8164 or  
877-684-8164

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U.S. Postage  
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<http://www.bartonccc.edu/eoc/>

# About CKEOC

The Educational Opportunity Center is 100% funded by the U.S. Department of Education and is one of the TRiO programs. TRiO began with the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, in response to the administration's War on Poverty.



The TRiO programs include eight outreach and support programs targeted to help disadvantaged students progress from middle school to post-baccalaureate programs.

## 32 Counties Served by CKEOC

Barton, Clay, Cloud, Dickinson, Ellis, Ellsworth, Geary, Graham, Jewell, Lincoln, Marshall, Mitchell, Morris, Ness, Norton, Osborne;

Ottawa, Pawnee, Phillips, Pottawatomie, Republic, Riley, Rooks, Rush, Russell, Saline, Smith, Stafford, Trego, Wabaunsee, and Washington.