



## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Independence High School

December 2009

### Announcements

- K-State will be holding campus visits on the following days: December 3, 2009—Junior Day. If you would like to attend any of these events, please register at <http://consider.k-state.edu>
- The United States Military Academy will host two sessions of the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Leaders Seminar in 2010. The first session is scheduled for May 29-June 4<sup>th</sup>, and the second session will be June 5-11<sup>th</sup>. The Summer Leaders Seminar provides outstanding high school juniors the exciting opportunity to gain a better understanding of the academic, physical, military, and leadership development programs at a service academy that features small classes, a caring faculty, professional career preparation, and a foundation for future graduate study. Stop by the counseling office for more information.
- Accepting a leadership scholarship commits a student to participate in Washburn's Leadership Institute. Annual renewal of a leadership scholarship is contingent upon maintaining a cumulative GPA of a lead 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, making appropriate annual progress toward the Leadership Studies Certificate, and meeting performance and program participation criteria negotiated with the Director of the Leadership Institute. Interested in applying? Stop by the counseling office for an application. You could receive up to \$8000 total in scholarship rewards. Deadline to apply is **January 8<sup>th</sup>**.
- SWE Weekend of Engineering at KU is a camp for high school girls that blends fun educational activities and a glimpse of the KU college experience. The cost for the camp is \$95 and includes all costs. To participate, send in the registration form by **February 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Need more info? Contact Lindsey McCaig by phone at (785) 864-2989 or by email at [women-engineers@ku.edu](mailto:women-engineers@ku.edu).

- Ichabod Senior Days have been reserved for **December 4<sup>th</sup>**. For more information or to RSVP, visit [www.washburn.edu/admissions](http://www.washburn.edu/admissions) (click on Ichabod Senior Days).
- Calling all Super Teens! Apply to be a Next Step Magazine Super Teen and we could be featured in the magazine. Deadline to apply is **November 27<sup>th</sup>**. Stop by the Counseling Office for more information.



- The Athletic Training program at Coffeyville Community College is currently looking for high school seniors who have an interest in sports and/or medicine, (or who are looking at possible future in other health care fields such as nursing, pre-medicine, EMT, Physical Therapy, etc.). There are several scholarships also available to offer students books, tuition, room and board, etc. If you have any questions, please call 252-7116 and talk with Rick King.
- Pittsburg State University has announced scheduled visit days. Seniors can tour *Pitt State* on Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> (registration deadline is March 1<sup>st</sup>). *Junior Jungle Day* for high school juniors is set for March 27<sup>th</sup> (registration deadline is March 22<sup>nd</sup>). *Sophomore Success Day* is scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup> (deadline to register is March 31<sup>st</sup>). To register for Tour Pitt State, Junior Jungle Day or Sophomore Success Day call the Office of Admissions at (800) 854-PITT after January 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The Kansas Masonic Foundation loans money to Kansas students to continue their

education at a Kansas post-secondary educational institution. Application Deadline is **April 15<sup>th</sup>**. For more information visit [www.fmfonline.org](http://www.fmfonline.org) or call (785) 357-7646.

- The March2Success program is a free online standardized test preparation course developed for the Army by e-learning industry leaders. The March2Success courseware includes ACT and SAT preparation materials. Visit [www.march2success.com](http://www.march2success.com) to learn more.

- Attention current sophomores: *The Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science* at Fort Hays State University is Kansas' premier early-entry-to-college program for high school juniors and seniors. High School juniors and seniors can earn 68 college credit hours, conduct hands-on research with Ph.D. faculty, live on campus with other KAMS students, develop leadership skills and get involved with the community all while enjoying the benefits of free tuition and books. Enrollment for the next class of high school juniors will begin in August 2010. The deadline to submit an application is **February 1, 2010**.
- The Foundation for Rural Education and Development (FRED) and the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA) are teaming up to provide rural students the learning opportunity of a lifetime. The leadership Through Learning program provides a hands-on approach to education. High school juniors and seniors from across the U.S. are invited to spend an all expense-paid week in our nation's capital to learn about government, civic affairs and telecommunications regulation, as well as to meet students their own age from all parts of the country. This year the program takes place from April 11-16, 2010 in Washington, D.C. The deadline for application is **December 11, 2009**. Stop by the Counseling Office for more information.



## Scholarship Information

- *Washington Crossing Foundation's* national scholarships are available for seniors. Deadline to apply is **January 15<sup>th</sup>**. Please visit [gwcf.org](http://gwcf.org) or call (215) 949-8841 for more information.

- *The Physics Department at Wichita State* offers several academic scholarships for full time and part time students enrolled as physics majors. Each award is made in the spring semester for the next academic year; applications are due by February 1<sup>st</sup>. Any questions should be directed to the physics department undergraduate advisor, Jason Ferguson at (316) 978-3190 or [Jason.ferguson@wichita.edu](mailto:Jason.ferguson@wichita.edu).

- *The American Legion* offers numerous scholarships:

If you, your father, or your grandfather are a member of the "Kansas Sons of the American Legion" please stop by the Counseling Office for information on the Jay B. Thielen and/or the U.S. "Udie" Grant Scholarship.

If you are a dependant of American Legion member(s) and/or children of American Legion Auxiliary, you can apply for the Rosedale Post 346 Scholarship, the Hugh A. Smith Scholarship, the Albert M. Lappin

Scholarship, the Charles W. & Annette Hill Scholarship, and the Ted and Nora Anderson Scholarship please stop by the Counseling Office for an application.

If you are an Eagle Scout, you can apply for the Eagle Scout of the Year, please stop by the Counseling Office for an application.

If you participated in any of the American Legion sponsored Shooting Sports programs, you can apply for the American Legion Department of Kansas Junior Shooting Sports Scholarship please stop by the Counseling Office for an application.

The American Legion Music Committee Scholarship is available to all Kansas High School students who have distinguished themselves in the field of music and



who will major in music at an approved Kansas Community College, College, or University.

- The John and Geraldine Hobbles Licensed Practical Nursing Scholarship is available to students interested in obtaining their LPN.

- The Paul E. Flaherty scholarship is awarded to any boy or girl who has participated in high school athletics.

- The Dr. Irvin L. "Click" Cowger Memorial Baseball Scholarship is available to a Kansas boy who has participated in American Legion Baseball.

- *KFC Colonel's Scholars* is looking for high school seniors with financial need and an entrepreneurial spirit to qualify for the KF Colonel's Scholars Program. Awards are up to \$20,000 for tuition, fees, textbooks, room and board. The online scholarship application will be available from December 1 to February 10, 2010 at

[www.kfcscholars.org](http://www.kfcscholars.org).

## College Planning

### Key Dates

#### December

- Some early admission decisions will be available, so check with any schools to which you submitted an application.
- The ACT® is administered on December 13.
- Complete and mail college applications with January 1 deadlines.

- Prepare for the FAFSA, because it will be available January 1. Visit [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov) to get a

head start on the process.

#### January 2010

- The FAFSA becomes available January 1. File the FAFSA as soon after January 2 as possible.
- Registration deadline for the February ACT test date is January 6.

#### **February 2010**

- The ACT is administered on February 7.





## Scholarship Information Continued

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- *The Kansas Golf Foundation* will award five scholarship for 2010-11. This is an academic scholarship, but in order to be eligible, a student must have participated in junior golf activities, including high school golf. Scholarship details and a downloadable application are available at [www.kansasgolf.org](http://www.kansasgolf.org). Click on "Kansas Golf Foundation" and follow the links for "Scholarships." For more information, call (785) 842-4833 X 205 or [phil@kansasgolf.org](mailto:phil@kansasgolf.org).
- Interested in attending *Colby Community College*? Stop by the counseling office for scholarship information.
- The Garvey Competitive Scholarship Exam offers renewable scholarships to attend Washburn University. The test will be held in Topeka on **November 21<sup>st</sup> and December 9<sup>th</sup>**. Need more information? Visit [www.washburn.edu/admissions](http://www.washburn.edu/admissions).
- Dr. Seuss's *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* College Scholarship recognizes a high school senior who understands and values the limitless possibilities that education can offer with a \$5,000 scholarship award. Applications can be downloaded at [www.ohtheplaces.org](http://www.ohtheplaces.org). Entries must be postmarked by **February 15, 2010**.
- **The Vocation Education Scholarship Program** was established by the 1987 Kansas Legislature to provide financial assistance to full-time students who enroll in designated one or two-year vocational programs. Designated programs are located at various Kansas area technical schools/colleges, community colleges, Kansas State University—Salina, several four-year colleges and proprietary schools. Only certificate and selected two-year degree programs are included among the designated technical programs. Students with, or applying for, baccalaureate degrees are not eligible for funding. For more information, visit [http://www.kansasregents.org/financial\\_aid/awards.html](http://www.kansasregents.org/financial_aid/awards.html).
- Mensa Education & Research Foundation has announced the 2009-2010 Scholarship Essay Contest to serve students entering into college in the Fall of 2010. For more information, visit [www.mensafoundation.org/scholarships](http://www.mensafoundation.org/scholarships). All applications must be postmarked by **January 15, 2010**.
- Two \$20,000 Jabara Scholarships will be awarded to outstanding students interested in pursuing a degree in business majoring in entrepreneurship at *Wichita State University*. Students receiving this scholarship are mentored by Fran Jabara, former Dean of the Barton School of Business and founder of the Center of Entrepreneurship. Questions? Contact Danielle Hayes at (316) 978-5162.
- Interested in attending Washburn University? Think about joining the Leadership Institute at Washburn and receive scholarships, grow in personal leadership awareness and development and be connected to an active network of leaders. The deadline for students to submit an application for a Leadership scholarship is **January 8, 2010**.
- Boston University announces the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Trustee Scholarship Competition, a four-year, full-tuition scholarship to BU. Deadline to apply is **December 1<sup>st</sup>**. For more information visit [www.bu.edu/admissions/trustee](http://www.bu.edu/admissions/trustee).
- The National Commission for Cooperative Education is pleased to announce scholarship information. To find additional information about this year's scholarship program and complete an application on-line by visiting the NCCE website at [www.co-op.edu](http://www.co-op.edu). For more information, email Frank Schettino at [f.schettino@neu.edu](mailto:f.schettino@neu.edu). The deadline for submitting scholarship application information is **February 15<sup>th</sup>**.

## Independence High School

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## Other Opportunities

- Would you go against the crowd to do what is right? *The 2010 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Essay Contest*, sponsored by the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, invites U.S. high school students to write an original essay on the political courage of a U.S. elected official. For contest information, registration, and to submit your essay online, visit the Profile in Courage Award Program at [www.ifklibrary.org](http://www.ifklibrary.org). The deadline for submission is **January 9, 2010**.
- Ayn Rand Education awards more than \$81,000. Eighth through twelfth grade students are eligible to submit an essay. To read a complete list of rules and guidelines, and to find out how to submit essays, please visit [www.aynrandeducation.com](http://www.aynrandeducation.com). Deadline is **March 2010**.

### Establishing homework strategies

Homework is a valuable part of learning. Though you probably think it's a pain, homework does help to cement lessons taught in class.

- Assume that you will have homework every night. Even if you completed your assignments, take time to review them. It's easier to see any errors the second time around. Don't forget to look ahead to long-term assignments like research papers or science projects. And if you're fortunate enough to have time during the school day to finish all homework assignments, use your scheduled homework time to develop solid studying habits.
- Don't be intimidated by homework. It's like a sporting event, but for your mind. Homework is part of your learning process. If you're having problems with an assignment, check with your teacher or look for free homework help that might be available in your area. Many public libraries offer either a live or online homework service. Tutors are another option.
- Make it a routine. Find a place and set a consistent time for doing homework. The adage states that it takes three weeks to develop a habit. Practice your homework routine and it should become second nature before long.

Homework is one aspect of your study skills. While homework focuses on a specific assignment, studying goes beyond that to enhance understanding of the concepts and topics taught in class.

### Homework tips for parents

Parents can help students establish good homework skills. The National Education Association has valuable homework tips for parents at:

<http://www.nea.org/parents/homework.html>.

Homework motivation ideas for parents are at:

<http://www.act.org/path/parent/motivate/homework.html>.

## Writing Your College Essay

Like your ACT score, the essay is just one component of your college application. An essay can say a lot—or a little—about who you are. The point of the essay is to paint a picture of you to a total stranger. Admissions officers want to get to know you and why you belong at their school.

Tips for writing sound essays can be found online from many sources. Just type "writing a college

essay" into a search engine. Here are some quick pointers to help craft a stand-out essay.

1. Plan. Review application deadlines and plan ahead. Outline, then

draft, then proof, rewrite, have someone else proof it and then revise accordingly. Give it one last look before submitting.

Remember, spell check doesn't catch everything!

2. Stand out. Admissions officials review hundreds of applications and the ones that pique their

interest are unique. While the essay should single you out from the crowd, be careful not to focus so narrowly on something others cannot relate to or understand.

3. Be real. This one can be interpreted a couple different ways.

First, don't use a story or essay found online or written by a friend. Admissions officers can spot a "borrowed" essay from long distance. Secondly, don't write to what you think others want to hear. Show personality and individuality.

4. Stay on topic. Review each application's essay