

Find Your Path to Educational Success

Central Kansas Educational Opportunity Center



March – May 2015

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CKEOC Outstanding Participant: Ruth Ruiz

We would like to introduce Ruth Ruiz as one of this issue's outstanding participants. Nursing has always been one of Ruth's passions and when she wanted to advance her career in 2012, CKEOC was there to help her through the process of returning to school. Less than two years later, Ruth found herself one of MATC's (Manhattan Area Technical College) most recent A.D.N. (Associates Degree of Nursing) graduates. We visited with Ruth to reflect on her accomplishments and the path that got her where she is today.

Ruth's story begins in Manila, Philippines where she graduated high school in 1983 and attended college in a B.S.N. (Bachelors of Science in Nursing) program. Three years into her program she moved to Kansas hoping she could pick up where she left off. Unfortunately, the Kansas State Board of Nursing did not recognize her foreign education causing a setback in her goals. Ruth did not let this disappointment keep her from her dream. She states, "I decided to attend the Manhattan Area Technical College in 1994 and graduated from the Practical Nursing program in 1995."

Ruth worked as an LPN for some time but still longed to advance her career. After discussing her plans with a friend, she was told to talk to Ray Kruse with CKEOC to put together a plan. As a result of this initial meeting, Ruth had a foundation for how she was going to achieve her goals. "(Ray) assisted me (with) financial aid and was given information on different available scholarships."

One of the people Ruth was referred to for additional help was Brenna Murphy, the employment and training specialist for KHPOP (Kansas Health Profession Opportunity Project). Ruth recounts: "Breanna Murphy was very approachable and gave me plenty of moral support when things got intense in school towards the end of the semester. KHPOP assisted with travel vouchers which was a great blessing as I was traveling five days a week to and from Manhattan. The financial aspect of the program helped me cross the barrier to complete my career goal."

Ruth had to resign her LPN position to be able to complete the A.D.N. program and now that she has achieved her goal of becoming an RN, she is excited to put her education to work. "Public Health Nursing has been my passion. Whether in a state or federal level I will have the opportunity to serve our community."

Even though she has been busy, Ruth has still found time to do the things she enjoys, such as spending time with her family and being involved in her church. When asked if she would like to add anything about her experiences with CKEOC she states "I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to be one of the benefactors of the CKEOC grant. CKEOC mission accomplished, I met my career goal (and I am) looking forward to serving my community."



CKEOC Outstanding Participant: William Gibson



We are extremely proud to introduce William Gibson as one of our Outstanding Participants. He is truly an inspiration. William dropped out of High School at the age of 16 and started working construction, running equipment, and roofing houses. When he was 17, he was able to receive his GED from Southeast Community College in Lincoln, NE. He tested out in 2 days, and received a score of a 95 average.

After receiving his GED, William worked for the State of Kansas as a welder/fabricator and received promotions. Unfortunately after 6 years, budget cuts shut the welding shop down and he was laid off from his job. At that time he decided to go to school for a career in Heavy Equipment Operation at North Central Kansas Technical College (NCKTC) at Beloit, KS. He was referred to CKEOC by staff at the Salina KansasWORKS office to see what his options were. He stated that “Mary Dino saved the day! She is very respectful and took care of everything with my financial aid and student loans. CKEOC made going to college an easy process.”

When asked to comment on how CKEOC has helped him achieve his educational goals, William stated that “he would encourage anyone wanting to further their education in whatever field, to contact CKEOC for help. They know what to do. Top Notch!”

William will graduate from North Central Kansas Technical College in May of 2015 with his degree in Heavy Equipment Operation. He stressed that his college experience was **Very Positive!!** The only frustration he has had was the Computer Applications class. He indicated that subject wasn't offered when he was a young student, and that he never really liked computers anyway. He found that class to be very challenging, but did well with his other general education and core classes.

William is very eager to put his newly learned skills to use. He has done construction type work all his life and hopes to find an employer who would hire a good, honest, hard-working guy, who also has the college education necessary to do the job.

Right now William is giving 100% of his time and effort to his school, wife and kids. He drives 2 hours round trip to school every day from Salina to Beloit. He will be married 9 years this May and has two wonderful children. His son, Gage, is 8 years old, and his daughter, Jaelie, is 5 years old. He commented, “My wife is my “best” friend and I do believe God sent her to me. We have two children together, and she is my hero.”



In his leisure time, William is a “Harley Davidson” guy. He rides a 2000 Sporty 1200cc that he rebuilt himself into a Bobber. He loves spending time and doing things with his kids, and is a true believer in being a close family.

William said he could probably write a book. He stated, “I have had a very interesting life, been through a lot of hard times growing up and in it all I have learned: Believe in yourself, be honest, work (extra) hard, and love your children, as they are a gift from God.”



UNDER CONSTRUCTION



Fort Riley Education Center Consortium

In our previous issue we introduced Fort Riley’s Education Center. As indicated in that article, the staff of the Education Center supports a consortium of eight schools providing education ranging from certificate programs through post-baccalaureate studies. The consortium includes the following schools: Barton Community College, Central Michigan University, Central Texas College, Hutchinson Community College, Kansas State University, Southwestern College, University of Mary, and Upper Iowa University.

Through classes that are on-site, online, and hybrid classes that combine both delivery methods, the consortium schools offer a wide variety of technical and nontechnical programs. The schools work hand in hand to help soldiers and their families to achieve their educational goals and attempt to maximize the transferability of credit between them. This offers students who graduate from one school the convenience of having some of their previous credits apply to a subsequent degree program at another consortium member school. This also allows students to occasionally attend classes at one school for credit at another, offering variety in electives and flexibility in scheduling.



In future issues we will highlight each of these schools and the programs that they offer, starting with Central Texas College in our next issue.



Going To College

Whether you are graduating from high school, an adult going to college for the first time or transferring from a 2-year college to a 4-year college, there are important steps you will need to take in order to further your education. High school students with access to a guidance counselor should take advantage of the opportunity to meet with them, as they are a valuable resource. Central Kansas Educational Opportunity Center (CKEOC) staff can work with your counselor to provide additional support and make sure all the steps are taken to make your transition to college successful. High school students without access to a guidance counselor along with adults and transfer students can also rely on CKEOC to be their one stop resource for guidance with their educational goals. The steps on the path to post-secondary education can differ between high school students, adults and transfer students. Be sure to look at the lists below to see what still needs to be done to complete your journey.

Graduating from high school:

- ◆ Schedule your ACT/SAT tests
- ◆ Choose a major
- ◆ Choose a college
- ◆ Apply for admissions
- ◆ Inquire when priority deadlines are
- ◆ Apply for scholarships
- ◆ Complete your FAFSA
- ◆ Schedule a campus visit
- ◆ Meet with departmental administrators
- ◆ Decide on living arrangements - on campus, off campus or with parents
- ◆ Have your high school transcript sent to the college of your choice
- ◆ Meet with assigned advisor and enroll
- ◆ Attend scheduled orientation days



Adults going to college for the first time:

- ◆ Schedule your ACT/SAT tests or assessment testing
- ◆ Choose a major
- ◆ Choose a college
- ◆ Apply for admissions
- ◆ Inquire when priority deadlines are
- ◆ Apply for scholarships
- ◆ Complete your FAFSA
- ◆ Schedule a campus visit
- ◆ Have your high school/GED transcript sent to the college of your choice
- ◆ Meet with assigned advisor and enroll
- ◆ Attend scheduled orientation days



Transferring to a 4 year college:

- ◆ Schedule a campus visit
- ◆ Meet with Advisor/Registrar to check credit transferability
- ◆ Inquire about admission requirements
- ◆ Decide what your living arrangements will be.
- ◆ Apply for admissions
- ◆ Send official transcripts to Registrar's office
- ◆ Have a degree audit completed
- ◆ Find out when priority deadlines are
- ◆ Apply for scholarships
- ◆ Complete your FAFSA



If you have questions, schedule an appointment with EOC Advisors:

Liz or Mary (620) 793-8164

Ray at (785) 238-5200



Fall 2015

MAIN CAMPUS PLANNING CALENDAR

Online Classes

Spring Session 3 (9 Weeks)
March 16 — May 17

Summer Session (8.5 Weeks)
June 1 — July 31



- April 13 — Fall Registration Begins
- May 15 — Graduation Main Campus
- May 29 — Graduation Ft. Riley
- May 28 — Summer Registration Ends
- June 1 — Summer Classes Begin

FORT RILEY CAMPUS PLANNING CALENDAR

LSEC CYCLE 4 April 14 — May 28

Check with CKEOC Staff for Forthcoming Enrollment Start Date
April 15 (1st Day of Class)—Last Day to Enroll (All)

COLLEGE PROGRAM CYCLE 3—March 25 — May 19

Check with CKEOC Staff for Forthcoming Enrollment Start Date
March 25 (1st Day of Class)—Last Day to Enroll (All)

CKEOC STAFF AVAILABLE TO ASSIST YOU WITH QUESTIONS & CKEOC SERVICES

Liz Klima – Academic Advisor/DS

Mary Dino— Academic Advisor



Ray Kruse- Coordinator/Academic Advisor

CENTRAL KANSAS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY CENTER IS PROUD TO BE A PART OF
BARTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE WHO SUPPORTS OUR PROGRAM AND SERVES AS
OUR HOST INSTITUTION

NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE:

Barton Community College is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
Visit equal.bartonccc.edu for more information.

ACT Test Dates

If you or someone you know are planning to attend a post-secondary college in the fall of 2015, it is time to mark your calendar for the following dates for the ACT test.

The following ACT test centers will provide the ACT:

Abilene – Abilene High School	April 18	June 13
Clay Center – Clay Center Community High School	April 18	
Concordia – Cloud County Community College	April 18	
Great Bend – Barton Community College:	April 18	
Hays – Fort Hays State University	April 18	
Hays High School	April 18	June 13
Hoisington – Hoisington High School	April 18	
Junction City – Junction City High School	April 18	June 13
Manhattan – Kansas State University	April 18	June 13
Manhattan High School	April 18	
Marysville – Marysville High School	April 18	
Pratt – Pratt Community College	April 18	June 13
Russell – Russell High School	April 18	June 13
Salina – Kansas Wesleyan University	April 18	June 13
Salina South	April 18	June 13
Wamego – Wamego High School	April 18	June 13

You may register online or by mail. The online address is www.actstudent.org and you can request a registration packet from ACT.

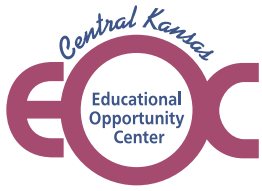
GED CLASS ORIENTATION

Contact Information for GED class orientation:

BCC/Great Bend	March 2 – 6	620-793-5794
	April 7 – 10	
BCC/Fort Riley	March 2 – 6	785-784-6066
	April 7 – 10	
Cloud CCC – Geary County Campus	March 23 & 24	785-238-8010
	May 26 & 28	
Hays:	March 30	785-460-5486
Manhattan	March 3 – 5	785-539-9009
	April 27 – 29	
Salina	April 6 – 9	785-309-4660
	May 18 – 21	

CKEOC Staff and Locations

<p>Great Bend 1025 Main St 620-793-8164 Academic Advisor Mary Dino Academic Advisor/Data Specialist Liz Klima</p>	<p>Project Director Susie Burt</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Junction City 1012 A West Sixth 785-238-5200 Coordinator/Academic Advisor Ray Kruse Secretary/ Data Specialist Mary Shane</p>
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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 Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, in response to the administration's War on Poverty.

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



33 Counties Served by CKEOC

Barton	Mitchell	Rice
Clay	Morris	Riley
Cloud	Ness	Rooks
Dickerson	Norton	Rush
Ellis	Osborne	Russell
Ellsworth	Ottawa	Saline
Geary	Pawnee	Smith
Graham	Phillips	Stafford
Jewell	Pottawatomie	Trego
Lincoln	Pratt	Wabaunsee
Marshall	Republic	Washington

