

The Entry Point

E D U C A T I O N A L O P P O R T U N I T Y C E N T E R

MAKING THE TRANSITION

2011 FAFSA DAY

Need Financial Aid for College?

FAFSA Day provides free help from financial specialists and college aid professionals to complete and submit your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) electronically, regardless of the college you plan to attend.

Saturday, February 19, 2011.

Yadkin Center
9 a.m. until 12 noon

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Far too many Rockingham County residents are familiar with cut backs and layoffs. While the loss of a job can be devastating, some residents have chosen to use their "out of work" time to further their education. At first, the prospect of returning to the classroom seems daunting, especially for those who have been

out of school for several years. However, many EOC participants rise to the occasion. Some folks need to first earn their GED before entering any college curriculum programs. I have been able to work with several of these students through the Project Adults Building Careers (PABC) in Rockingham County. While every GED student learns at his

or her own pace, many quickly learn that when they apply the dedication and resolution they had at their job, they can be suc-



cessful in the classroom. Once completing the GED, some students decide to continue their education by enrolling at Rockingham Community College. A number of GED students in the PABC program in Rockingham County made this transition from GED to curriculum student this fall. The helpful staff at RCC lends a hand to make this transition as seamless as pos-

sible. As I talk with these students, I can't deny the pride I hear in their voices when they tell me about the good grades they are making in their Math, English, and other courses. Last year, before they lost their jobs, they would have never guessed that they would now be college students, pursuing degrees and making great grades. I believe these students will

continue to make successful transitions. The next one will be from successful students to successful employee.



EOC WELCOMES AUBREY DRAUGHN

*“Teachers
open the
door, but
you must
enter by
yourself”*



**Aubrey Draughn, Coordinator
for Yadkin and Davie County.**



My name is Aubrey Draughn. I am originally from the mountains of Boone, North Carolina. After getting married in July 2008 I moved to my husband, Justin's, hometown of Mocksville, North Carolina. In December 2009, two of my greatest life accomplishments made their debut. First, we were blessed with our precious baby girl, Honor Presley and later on, in the same week, I graduated from Appalachian State University with my Bachelor of Social Work. While attending Appalachian State, I completed my field placement with Catawba County Schools. Through this experience, I learned a lot about setting goals and formulating action plans that lead to

academic success. I also had the opportunity of being a part of Student Intervention Teams (for at-risk students) at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Growing up, I witnessed some of the challenges that others faced when trying to obtain their high school diploma and/or continue on to college. I was destined to be a social worker by heart and I always knew that I needed to be in a position where I could help others get an education. My education is one accomplishment that I am truly proud of. Throughout school, there were difficult times, and there were struggles, but I DID IT! I believe every individual deserves the right to be provided with the tools and resources to get an education. I consider the opportunity to help individuals,

within my own community, in earning a college degree a true privilege. I am committed to helping others recognize their strengths and guiding them on their educational journey.

I am currently studying for the GRE in preparation to apply to Graduate School. My goal is to earn a master's degree in either social work or education in the next few years. I am thrilled to be the Educational Opportunity Center Coordinator for Davie & Yadkin County and I am eager to be a helpful resource in our community.





EOC Success Story

Lisa Thomas graduated from Surry Community College In 1985 with a degree in art and graphic design while raising two small children. Over the years that followed she worked for several local businesses in graphic arts and in management until she was laid off in 2009. Unable to find work in her field, she entered the Jobs Now orientation with the intention of beginning one of the "12 in 6" programs. During one of the orientation sessions on Career Exploration, conducted by the Educational Opportunity Center staff, she took the Career Key, an interest assessment, and scored high in both the social and artistic categories. This information led her to reconsider her original goal of obtaining a Bachelor's degree in Art Therapy. Lisa chose to apply to the Gardner Webb

University GOAL (Greater Opportunities for Adult Learners) program since she could attend classes on the Surry Community College campus and it offered her the type of degree she was now interested in obtaining: a Bachelor's degree in Human Services.

Lisa was accepted into the program and with the assistance of EOC staff completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) which she received for the 2010-2011 academic year. She began her program in August and attends two classes three nights a week. Since most of her credits from her Associates degree program transferred to the Gardner Webb program, Lisa will complete her Bachelor's degree requirements in one full year.

Lisa is adjusting to life as a student but faces other challenges. Her son is recovering from an automobile accident and she must take him to medical and therapy appointments, her unemployment insurance may soon run out making part-time employment a necessity, and the cost of Gardner Webb's tuition exceeds what she receives from the Pell Grant. The Educational Opportunity Center is now assisting her with a scholarship search in order to find more financial aid resources and Lisa is networking with her own contacts to find part-time employment. In spite of all the obstacles Lisa is confident and determined to complete her degree and achieve her goal of becoming an Art Therapist.



EOC WELCOMES LAURA MCKNIGHT

Laura McKnight began working in the Education Opportunity Center at the end of September as a work study. She graduated from West Stokes High School in 2009, and attends Surry Community College.

She is working on pursuing a career in the Nursing Field, and hopes to be on the Labor and Delivery Floor. Next semester she plans to enroll in the CNA program at Surry

to begin her journey towards becoming a nurse!

Laura also works part time at Mayflower Seafood Restaurant as a waitress. She enjoys fall time, drawing, hanging out with friends, and traveling to the Coast as much as possible.

Laura looks forward to assisting the Education Opportunity Center in anyway that she can.



COLLEGE SPOTLIGHT



Foust Building on the UNCG Campus

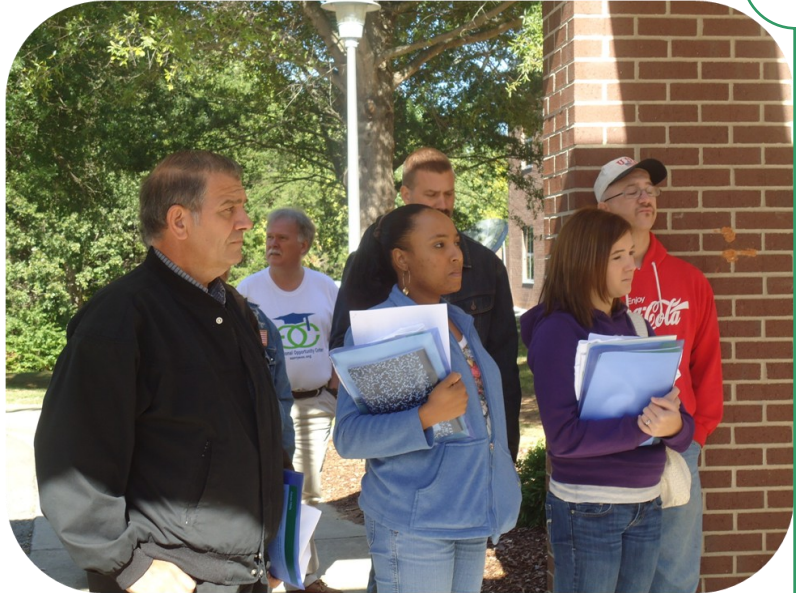
This month's college spotlight is the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Founded in 1891, UNCG is a public four year university located in the heart of Greensboro. Average costs for the 2008-2009 school year were \$4,135 for tuition, \$6,188 for room and board, \$1,662 for books and supplies, and \$2,196 for personal expenses. For that school year, 9,187 students applied, 6,634 students were admitted, and 2,492 students enrolled in classes. UNCG's most popular majors are business and marketing,

education, health sciences, social sciences, and visual/performing arts. To apply to UNC-Greensboro, you must fill out an application by March 1st, and the application fee is \$45. SAT scores are preferred, but ACT scores will be accepted. To receive financial aid, filling out a FAFSA form and other required documents must be completed by March 1st. For more information, visit www.uncg.edu.

"Education is what remains after one has forgotten everything he learned in school."
-Albert Einstein

STUDENTS ENJOYING A COLLEGE TOUR AT PROJECT: ABC





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