

JANUARY 2009 - VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1

Training sessions deemed informative, useful

Scott High School counselor Debbie Ison's introduction to GHK at a recent training session elicited a response that would immediately be understood by texting teens: GHK ... OMG, BFF!

Translation — GoHigherKY: Oh, my gosh! It's sure to become every counselor's best friend forever.

"We have all seen the colorful GoHigherKY icon on the Career Cruising ILP home page," Ison said. "But truthfully, how many of you just sort of skipped by it on your way to advising students in the completion of their ILPs? I know I did before I had my eyes opened by Pennie Little at GHK training October 29."

Since attending the session, Ison has made GHK an important part of her work with students at Scott, a Kenton County school with an enrollment of about 1,050 in grades 9-12.

"We have also found the 'Transfer Planning' tab an important tool," Ison said. "About 25 of our high school students take Early Admission classes at Northern Kentucky University. A few others take classes at Gateway (Community and Technical College) while in high school. Still another group of students is planning to begin their college careers at Cincinnati State, Northern or Gateway and then transfer to another school. Being able to see what credits will transfer to another school helps these students to make wise choices."

More than 40 counselors attended sessions Little conducted at Elizabethtown Community and Technical College, Sullivan University and Hazard Community Technical College in October and November. She gave the counselors an overview of the entire site, discussed changes to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) program and provided an in-depth look at the Transcript Exchange System (see story on Page 2). Ison called the exchange system GHK's pièce de resistance.

Ann Helton of Louisville's Mercy Academy, a girls' school with about 640 students in grades 9-12, recommended the training sessions to other counselors.

"Prior to this training, I had attended a two-day workshop which cost over \$100 and, unfortunately, was a big waste of my time," she said. "The GoHigherKY seminar was free, lasted approximately three hours, and was very informative. Everything that was shown and discussed is useful in counseling students about college and/or careers. The presenters did not waste valuable time."

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Little said long sessions aren't needed because the site is so easy to use.

Pikeville High counselor Ann Samons saw another benefit of the training sessions.

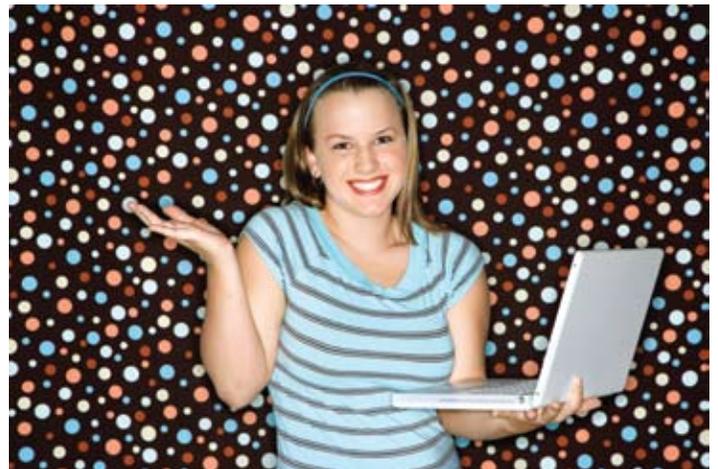
"The sessions allow counselors to network with each other to gain insight and share ideas about the processes being used at various schools," she said.

Additional GHK training sessions will be scheduled in the spring, with dates and locations to be announced at a later date. If you're interested in being placed on a contact list for spring training sessions, please send your name, school, e-mail address and phone number to plittle@kheaa.com. Once dates are set, Little will send you the information and registration form.

Transcript Exchange System continues to grow

More than 1,200 transcripts have been sent from Kentucky high schools to colleges and universities across the state using GHK's Transcript Exchange System. An average of five high schools a month are now implementing the system, while more than 20 colleges and universities have signed up to receive the electronic transcripts.

"The transcript exchange system will be a great benefit for the students," said Paintsville High School's Beverly Martin, who attended GHK training recently. "This will save valuable time and energy for me as the only counselor for my school."



Paul Staker from Scott County Ninth Grade School in Georgetown echoed those sentiments, saying that the electronic exchange "will definitely be the way to go in the future. The GoHigherKY.org program is a great tool for working with students and only continues to get better."

Colleges that are set up to receive electronic transcripts are:

- Bellarmine University
- Big Sandy Community and Technical College
- Bluegrass Community and Technical College
- Brescia University
- Eastern Kentucky University
- Galen College of Nursing
- Gateway Community and Technical College
- Hazard Community and Technical College
- Indiana Wesleyan College
- Jefferson Community and Technical College
- Kentucky State University
- Kentucky Wesleyan College
- Lindsey Wilson College
- Mid-Continent University
- Midway College
- Northern Kentucky University
- Thomas More College
- Union College
- University of Kentucky
- University of Louisville
- University of the Cumberland

If your school would like more information, please contact Dave Wellman, 502.696.7493, dwellman@kheaa.com, or Pennie Little, 502-696-7495, plittle@kheaa.com.

An in-depth look at the ‘Paying for College’ tab

GoHigherKY.org is divided into eight sections, each with its own tab at the top of the Web page. One section that counselors find especially helpful for their students is the “Paying for College” tab.

When you click on that tab, you find links to:

- Financial Aid Overview.
- Scholarship Search.
- PAIS/EFC Calculator.
- SLOPE Calculator.
- Financial Aid FAQs.

Debbie Ison, a counselor at Scott High School in Covington, called the information in this section “invaluable to Kentucky students.”

“I have never seen the information contained under that tab anywhere else,” she said. “The SLOPE calculator is a real eye-opener for our students deprived of real-world money experience.”

SLOPE stands for Student Loans Over Projected Earnings, and it’s a must visit for students who will have to use loans to help pay for their education. And, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, during the 2003-2004 school year over half of all full-time undergraduates attending four-year colleges and universities took out student loans.

Using SLOPE, students can estimate what percentage of their projected salary after graduation will go toward paying off their student loans. Experts recommend no more than 8%, so the calculator can help students stay off tricky repayment slopes.

The EFC calculator provides students and parents with an estimate of their expected family contribution (EFC). That’s what the formula set by Congress thinks they should be able to pay toward a student’s education, based on the financial information they provide on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The EFC determines how much and what kind of federal aid a student qualifies for. It also determines eligibility for many state and campus-based financial aid programs.

The Financial Aid Overview section provides information about the types of financial aid and the FAFSA, while the Scholarship Search helps students find scholarships for which they might qualify.

The FAQs, of course, provide answers to questions many students and parents have about financial aid.

SLOPE Calculator

	Stafford Loans	Perkins Loans	PLUS Loans	Other/ Alternative Loans	Total Loans
Subsidized Stafford Loans	\$15,500.00	n/a*	n/a*	n/a*	
Unsubsidized Stafford Loan	\$19,000.00	n/a*	n/a*	n/a*	
Estimated capitalized interest	\$0.00	n/a*	n/a*	n/a*	
Loan balance	\$34,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$34,500.00
Interest rate	6.8%	5%	8.5%	12%	
Loan term (years)	10	0	0	0	
Minimum payment	\$50.00	\$40.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	
Monthly payment	\$397.03	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$397.03
Number of payments	120	0	0	0	
Total interest paid	\$13,143.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,143.60
Total paid	\$47,643.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$47,643.60

* Only applies to subsidized and unsubsidized Stafford Loans

SLOPE (Student Loans Over Projected Earnings)

	Per Year	Per Month	Slope
Student loan payments	\$4,764.36	\$397.03	
Projected earnings for first year of employment	\$19,050.00	\$1,587.50	= 25%

Sponsor Spotlight: Start a college savings plan today

Parents and grandparents have big hopes and dreams for their children. But when it comes to saving for college, they're not sure where to start. The Kentucky Higher Education Savings Plan Trust (KESPT) just made it easier:

- KESPT now has five investment options to choose from.
- Deposits can start with as little as \$25 per investment option.
- Money grows free of federal and Kentucky income tax.
- Savings can be used at any eligible higher education institution in the country.
- Accounts can be used for tuition, books, supplies, and certain costs for room and board.



For more information, call 1-877-598-7878 or visit kysaves.com.

The Kentucky Education Savings Plan Trust is a state-sponsored, 529 college savings plan implemented and administered by KHEAA and managed by TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc. (TFI).

Consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing in the Kentucky Education Savings Plan Trust. Please visit www.kysaves.com for a Disclosure Booklet containing this and other information. Read it carefully.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about GoHigherKY.org, contact:

Pennie Little
 GoHigherKY Coordinator
 502-696-7495
 plittle@kheaa.com

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