Morehead YDC Students Attend Kentucky Career and Technical Education Student Leadership Day

Four Future Business Leaders of America students from the Morehead Youth Development Center recently attended the annual Kentucky Career and Technical Education Student Leadership Day on Tuesday, February 11, 2014. Students learned about citizenship, lobbying, and the role of the citizens in the legislative process. Speaking to the crowd of students gathering in the Frankfort High School Gymnasium, the Honorable Derrick Graham, Representative, 57th District, and Kentucky House of Representatives Education Committee Chair, urged students to “be informed, be engaged, and be connected.” He directed the students to get involved in their government process at an early age.

KECSAC Mini-Grants Awarded to 40 Programs

The Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children (KECSAC) recently initiated a special mini-grant Request for Proposal (RFP) process to benefit currently funded programs. As in years past when mini-grant funds have been available, the intent is to help programs implement projects designed to meet the significant academic achievement needs of the state agency children they serve.

This past year several programs that were receiving KECSAC funding closed for various reasons, which freed up limited funds for the educational programs to implement specific projects or initiatives they wouldn’t otherwise have had the funding for. Requests were limited to $5,000 per program, and submissions outlined details of the program, the goals and impact of the project/initiative, and specific objectives the mini-grant would help meet if it were awarded. All mini-grant recipients are also required to report back to KECSAC to share measurable outcomes and successes of their projects.

Since the RFP process is competitive, requests were considered by a KECSAC review committee, which voted to award the mini-grants to 40 of the programs requesting funding. This mini-grant effort was conducted in collaboration with the Kentucky Departments of Juvenile Justice (DJJ); Community Based Services (DCBS); Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DBHID) and the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE). You can review the list of KECSAC programs receiving mini-grants and a brief description of the items and/or projects they will use the funds for in the table on page 3.
Dear Friends,

My mother reminded me a few weeks ago about the old wives tale related to the number of days of fog in August – she said it directly matches up to the number of snow days we’ll have in the winter. As you may recall, August was a very foggy month and this winter has been especially tough. Our school districts have been dealing with a pretty abusive pattern of bad weather over the last several months and our schedules have been significantly impacted. We’ve been faced with long stretches of snow and ice and freezing rain and snow thunder…who has thunder during snow!?! All of this has resulted in a lot of our school districts missing more days of school than they would like. And it certainly is impacting every decision we make about how we deliver educational services this year, and I hope it is making us think about how we deliver services in years to come.

It’s during these tough times that we start taking inventory of our blessings – of the great gifts we have at our disposal. While we have fought brave battles with the elements, we have also protected ourselves with the warmth of our homes, our thick winter coats and the gloves we received as a gift last year. Just like you, I try to grab anything I can to get the job done. I see such wonderful parallels with how we respond to these inconveniences and how we work to serve state agency children. We all have seen warmer days, but with an economy that challenges us to make the best use of what we have, we adjust our needs, we consolidate our resources, and we collaborate with our colleagues to help keep us warm. It’s exactly how we have worked for years to make ends meet in our programs.

It illustrates how our local school districts have worked to keep our programs not only surviving, but thriving. Our educational programs are widely regarded as some of the best alternative educational offerings in the Commonwealth, having been recognized by the Kentucky Department of Education multiple times for providing best practice strategies for educating students at-risk. We have dedicated teachers who are able to help students improve academically by more than a full grade level in math and reading in just 90 days. And keep in mind our district teachers did that without an increase in our funding; in fact, they did it while our student population increased by 38% and our funding decreased by 12.5%.

Because of the great work our teachers and administrators are doing across the Commonwealth, we have great evidence of success to share with our legislators. During this current legislative session we have been busy talking with key policy makers about the needs of our school districts and our kids. We have rallied our resources over the years and we have done more with less. We have even excelled in many ways while helping state agency children reach new and higher educational goals for themselves. But, school districts can only do so much. As the legislature continues their work in developing funding priorities for the coming biennial budget, I hope you’ll take a moment to share with your legislative leaders the life changing work you are doing with our children.

As director of KECSAC, I am humbled to work with such a wonderful group of educators on behalf of exceptional children throughout Kentucky. I know the children we serve are getting a better education today than just a few years ago and I know it is because of the great work taking place in our partnering school districts across Kentucky. It is a great honor to work on your behalf as we continue to advocate for the state agency children served in our classrooms.
Below is a list of each program awarded a KECSAC mini-grant this year and a brief description of the projects and items they will use the funds for.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Requested Items</th>
<th>Requested Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adair</td>
<td>Adair YDC</td>
<td>iMac desktops</td>
<td>$4,800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barren</td>
<td>Barren County DT</td>
<td>GED exam, additional Reading Plus software licenses</td>
<td>$4,930.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowling Green Ind.</td>
<td>LifeSkills CCSU</td>
<td>Textbooks (science)</td>
<td>$2,048.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boyd</td>
<td>Ramey-Estep High School</td>
<td>Laptops</td>
<td>$4,947.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boyle</td>
<td>Boyle County DT</td>
<td>iPads, Apple TV, iMovie</td>
<td>$3,964.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bullitt</td>
<td>Bullitt Alternative Center</td>
<td>Instructional coach for summer school</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butler</td>
<td>Green River YDC</td>
<td>Aquaculture program-stage 3, guest speakers (4 appearances), engineering design projects</td>
<td>$2,968.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calloway</td>
<td>Calloway County DT</td>
<td>Achieve 3000, BrainPOP</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbell</td>
<td>Campbell RJDC</td>
<td>Interwrite boards and mounts, projectors and mounts</td>
<td>$4,630.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbell</td>
<td>Campbell DT</td>
<td>Champion programs</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>Christian County DT</td>
<td>Accelerated read and math, Kindle books and 120 books</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>Cumberland Hall</td>
<td>Textbooks (K-12th grade)</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clark</td>
<td>The Phoenix Academy</td>
<td>Interactive projector, Apple TV, MacBook Pro, Kindles, Amazon Whispercast software</td>
<td>$4,696.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinton</td>
<td>Foothills Academy</td>
<td>Promethean Activboard, 21 monitors, DVD player</td>
<td>$4,999.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin</td>
<td>The Academy DT</td>
<td>Contracted mental health professional (substance abuse)</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graves</td>
<td>New Pathways for Children</td>
<td>Desktop computers</td>
<td>$4,555.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graves</td>
<td>Mayfield YDC</td>
<td>Computer, printer, school supplies</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hopkins</td>
<td>Hopkins County DT</td>
<td>iPad Air and cases</td>
<td>$4,552.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson</td>
<td>Barnabas Home</td>
<td>Kindle Fire, storage cabinet, books</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson</td>
<td>Audubon YDC</td>
<td>Theatrical project (Shakespeare Behind Bars)</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson</td>
<td>Boys’ Haven</td>
<td>Health instruction and activities</td>
<td>$2,200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson</td>
<td>Uspiritus - Brooklawn</td>
<td>iPod Touch, cases and apps</td>
<td>$4,772.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knox</td>
<td>Knox Appalachian School</td>
<td>Scholastic reading licenses, training, iPads, books</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LaRue</td>
<td>The Life Connection</td>
<td>Plato recovery program</td>
<td>$1,600.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laurel</td>
<td>Laurel County DT</td>
<td>Tiller and supplies for gardening project</td>
<td>$2,860.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCracken</td>
<td>McCracken RDJC</td>
<td>Books (Chomp, Unchained, The Fault in Our Starts)</td>
<td>$339.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middlesboro Ind.</td>
<td>Middlesboro Group Home</td>
<td>Achieve 3000, trip to SKCTC</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery</td>
<td>Gateway Children’s Services</td>
<td>Read 180 software licenses and hosting fee</td>
<td>$3,850.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery</td>
<td>Hope Hill Youth Services</td>
<td>Books, physical education equipment</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morgan</td>
<td>Woodsbend YDC</td>
<td>iPads</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pike</td>
<td>Shelby Valley DT</td>
<td>Computers and printers</td>
<td>$4,757.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pike County</td>
<td>Phelps DT</td>
<td>Computers, textbooks and workbooks</td>
<td>$4,901.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulaski</td>
<td>Sunrise-Wilderness Program</td>
<td>Laptops, mini notebooks, computer</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rowan</td>
<td>Sunrise-Morehead Center</td>
<td>Edgenuity subscriptions</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rowan</td>
<td>Morehead YDC</td>
<td>Achieve 3000</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren</td>
<td>Warren County DT</td>
<td>Chromebooks, computer program for monitoring lab computers</td>
<td>$4,880.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne</td>
<td>Otter Creek Academy</td>
<td>iPad Apps, calculators, science kits, art/music/cooking supplies, Accelerated math, library books, ACT mastery</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne</td>
<td>Lake Cumberland YDC</td>
<td>SMART boards, document camera, library books</td>
<td>$4,986.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolfe</td>
<td>Dessie Scott Children’s Home</td>
<td>Kindle Fires, books</td>
<td>$3,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodford</td>
<td>Safe Harbor Academy</td>
<td>SMART board classroom</td>
<td>$3,981.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$174,222.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Students then worked their way to the State Capitol Rotunda to participate in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) & Career and Technical Education Student Organization (CTSO) Rally where they heard from CTSO leaders as well as representatives from the Governor’s office. The young leaders were then treated to a guided tour of the capitol observing the Capitol Reception Room, Senate and House Chambers, and the Supreme Court of Kentucky. Kentucky Career and Technical Education Student Leadership Day is part of CTE Month during February. The theme this year was Celebrating CTE Superheroes! The event is sponsored annually by the Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education.

Call for Proposals: http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conferences

The 26th Annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference is inviting innovative, skilled presenters who have excellent ideas, proven programs, and research to share in the areas of Literacy; School Climate; Data Assessment and Continuous Improvement; Curriculum and Instruction; Student Support Services; Student, Family, and Community Engagement; New Literacy (digital), Media, and Technology; Common Core and the At-Risk Student; and Alternative Pathways.

The deadline for submission for proposals is April 20, 2014.

Nominate that special student in your program who deserves recognition. Due to Kaye Parker kaye.parker@eku.edu by 5 p.m. April 4, 2014

To Download the Forms Visit www.kecsac.eku.edu/documents

Nominate a teacher, staff person, school administrator or outstanding community member/organization who exemplifies excellence in education and commitment to student success. Due to Melissa Rogers melissa.rogers@franklin.kyschools.us by May 31, 2014
Buckhorn Students Sew for Soldiers!

Students at Buckhorn Children’s Center have been using their skills to give back to U.S. troops overseas.

“I discovered that my students were interested in making blankets from fleece material so I began a project which would allow the students to learn to sew as well as create their own customized blanket,” said Buckhorn teacher Jennifer Dixon.

The school also has a bulletin board containing photos of soldiers (past and present), who are usually family members of students. Around last Thanksgiving, when they received new photos for the board, they got the idea to take their sewing project a step further when one of the students made the statement that they should make a blanket and send it to one of the soldiers. So the students made their designs and crafted the blankets. Now the project has a whole new meaning to the young men at Buckhorn, having completed several blankets for soldiers. Some blankets have gone to Afghanistan along with a package of various candies. They even received a photo back from a soldier serving overseas with his blanket.

The students are continuing their “blankets for soldiers” project, and are now designing blankets to send to wounded soldiers recovering in hospitals across the country. “I am extremely proud of my boys and their desire to give back to those who defend our nation,” Ms. Dixon said.

Christian Co. Day Treatment Events Include Veteran’s Honors and Guest Speakers

In recognition of Veteran’s Day 1st Sgt. Anthony Holloway, the Hopkinsville High School JROTC teacher, and his students visited the Christian County Day Treatment program on November 6, 2013 for a presentation. The JROTC presented colors in honor of the military men and women who have served and are serving our country, including some teachers at the Day Treatment who are veterans. With Ft. Campbell Army Post located in Christian County and many military dependent students attending district schools, 1st Sgt. Holloway spoke to the students about reverence to the United States flag and what Veteran’s Day means. Upon retirement from his 22.5 years of service in the Army, 1st Sgt. Holloway stepped into the position at the high school in July of 2005. His last duty station was in Afghanistan, where he was wounded and received the Purple Heart, so his “active duty” days are well represented when he speaks to students. His motto is to become better citizens, and he truly believes in the students at Christian County Day Treatment, which is why it’s an honor for the program to have him and the JROTC as guests.

Leland Statom, Nashville Channel 5 meteorologist, also visited Christian County Day Treatment Center as a motivational speaker on March 12, 2014. Leland shared his background with students, which included being a first generation college graduate. He was originally from Chicago and relocated to Dyersburg, TN with his family. During his speech, Mr. Statom also emphasized the importance of an education and encouraged students to go on to college. Each month the Christian County Day Treatment Center provides students with a guest/motivational speaker or presentation ranging from Native American Pow Wow dancers to trainings on safety.
Phoenix Academy Students Write Proposals to Create Change

Students at Phoenix Academy recently used an authentic learning assignment in order to create change at their program. Their assignment was to write a proposal for improvements they’d like to see at Phoenix Academy. The students researched their topics, created a price analysis, and then presented their proposals to their peers, faculty and community members. The students with the top five proposals were then given the opportunity to present at the Board of Education in front of district employees. Thanks to district employees, the proposals were forwarded on to the community.

Trevor Jones, the Regional Sales Representative for Toshiba, read one of the proposals written by Scottie Berryman and Whitney Styles proposing Phoenix Academy sweatshirts be purchased for every student and for this to be added to the school uniform. Thanks to Mr. Jones, who was so impressed by the proposal he got his company to fund the project, students now have embroidered Phoenix Academy sweatshirts.

Two New Group Therapy Programs Implemented at Phoenix Academy

**Curriculum:** State-Approved “PRIME for Life” Program  
**Population:** All students enrolled  
**Focus:** Motivational intervention for the prevention of alcohol and drug problems and/or early intervention for these issues  
**About:** PRIME For Life is an evidence-based motivational prevention, intervention and pretreatment program specifically designed for people who may be making high-risk choices. This includes but is not limited to impaired driving offenders, college students, and young people charged with alcohol and/or drug offenses. It is designed to change drinking and drug use behaviors by changing beliefs, attitudes, risk perceptions, motivations, and the knowledge of how to reduce their risk of alcohol and drug related problems throughout their lives. Content is also designed in a way that serves universal, selective, and indicated audiences with program delivery options for each.

**Curriculum:** Girls In Real Life Situations (G.I.R.L.S.) Program  
**Population:** Female students in the 6th-12th grades  
**Focus:** Enhancing social and emotional development  
**About:** The G.I.R.L.S. curriculum provides over 90 activities divided into twelve session themes: “Who Am I?,” Body Image, Choices, Communication, Emotions, Friendships, Relationships, Self-Esteem, Stress, Reaching Out, Tough Times, and “Who I Am!” During group lessons, girls are encouraged to share feelings and struggles as they openly discuss important issues in a safe and supportive environment. Participants are given the opportunity to feel empowered, gain self-awareness, develop coping strategies, improve problem-solving skills, understand that they are not alone, and learn to make healthy decisions.
Children's Home of Northern Kentucky Wins “Good Story, Told Well” Award

Children’s Home of Northern Kentucky (CHNK) recently received the “Good Story, Told Well” Award at the 2014 Fast Pitch competition hosted by the Cincinnati chapter of Social Venture Partners. The award included a monetary donation of $1,500.00 sponsored by the Cincinnati-based organization Charitable Words.

CHNK was one of eight nonprofits in the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky area selected to participate in the inaugural event on February 12, 2014, which borrows from the “fast pitch” competitions often see in the start-up community and on television reality shows like Shark Tank. CHNK’s Chief Executive Officer Rick Wurth represented the Home in the competition.

“Having just three minutes to ‘pitch’ the story of our Home – which has been in existence since 1882 and has had thousands of children walk through its doors – was challenging,” says Wurth. “There is so much that could have been shared... our history is rich with stories of compassion and success; stories of hearts and lives being changed for the better.”

Wurth chose to share the story of a recent CHNK resident who, upon arriving at the Home and being given a new pair of shoes, handed over his old ones and shared, “I was hurt in those shoes.”

“So many people struggle to understand that CHNK provides actual clinical and treatment services,” explains Wurth. “My goal during the competition was to share how we don’t just give kids new shoes... we give them a new path. My entire team is united in the common belief that the bad things that happen in life will not have the last word.”

Approximately 200 people attended the event, which was held at the Art Academy of Cincinnati. The prize money will help CHNK bridge the gap between what it receives from the state of Kentucky for its residential and community-based programs and what the true cost is for the therapeutic care offered by CHNK’s team of 65 employees.

Ramey-Estep High School Administers First ASVAB Test

On January 30, 2014, a representative from the Office of Defense along with three proctors from the National Guard came to Ramey-Estep High School (REHS) to administer the ASVAB test for the first time at the school. Since Ramey is not a typical high school it took several years to get permission to administer the ASVAB test at the campus. The test was offered in order to prepare students to be career ready and it also brings awareness to qualifying students for consideration in joining the military.

“This was so valuable to our students that we would like to see this offered at other similar schools across the state,” Ramey-Estep Principal Ann Brewster said. “Often our students will share an interest in the military and they were so excited when they learned that they would have the opportunity to take this test.”

On February 20, another representative from the Office of Defense came to REHS to go over the test scores and cover the career ready workbook with students. According to Ms. Brewster, this career exploration guide is a wonderful tool for young people to identify their work-related interests regardless of how they score on the test and was very beneficial to students. The representative informed them that to be accepted into the various military branches they must score at least 31. For 19.2% of Ramey students, scores were over 50, and 36.1% scored 31 or above. After students realized how well they could do, many of them have decided to look further into the military as a career choice.

“We are very proud that our students took this offer seriously and did their very best,” Ms. Brewster said. “We believe this will give them confidence that they can excel academically and will carry over to their ACT tests.”

Both Defense representatives complimented the students on their behavior and professionalism and said they were impressed with their scores. So much so that they have agreed to schedule another test at the school soon. Ramey-Estep would like to extend their thanks to the Office of Defense for believing in their kids and giving them an opportunity that very well may change the course of their future.
Save the Date
13th Annual Alternative Strategies for Educating Students At-Risk Conference

July 23 - 24, 2014

New Location This Year:
Capital Plaza Hotel, Frankfort