

Jackson County Teachers Take Part in Learning Opportunity

On Thursday, March 29, 2018, Jackson County Middle School and Jackson County High School science teachers participated in a professional learning opportunity provided by the Partnership Institute for Math and Science (PIMSER). Diane Johnson was the presenter.

The work was focused on the Next Generation Science Standards, lesson design and assessment practices.



April 2018 Financial Aid Tip

Taking more classes each semester may help you cut the cost of college, according to the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA). That's important if you'll need student loans to help pay for your education.

A full-time load for undergraduate students is usually 12 credit hours per semester. Associate's degrees usually require 60 credit hours to finish, bachelor's degrees 120 hours. At 12 hours each semester, you'll need five semesters to finish an associate's degree and 10 semesters to finish a bachelor's degree.

But if you take 15 hours per semester, you'll finish an associate's degree in four semesters and a bachelor's degree in eight semesters. Most colleges won't charge you any more for 15 hours than they do for 12 hours. That might save you thousands of dollars in tuition and fees.

When you're planning your schedule, think about taking that extra class each semester. The sooner you earn your degree, the sooner you can start job hunting.

KHEAA is the state agency that administers Kentucky's student financial aid programs, including the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES). Its sister agency, the Kentucky Higher Education Student Loan Corporation (KHESLC), offers Advantage Loans to help students and parents pay for college or to refinance student loans. For more information about Advantage Loans, visit www.AdvantageEducationLoan.com.

For more information about Kentucky scholarships and grants, visit www.kheaa.com; write KHEAA, P.O. Box 798, Frankfort, KY 40602; or call 800-928-8926, ext. 6-7214.

Arts First Aid Grant to Help Strengthen Arts Curriculum in Kentucky Schools

FRANKFORT, Ky. (April 2, 2018) — Schools that want to improve the quality of their arts curriculum and classroom experiences can apply for a multifaceted arts education grant from the Kentucky Arts Council.

Through a partnership between the Kentucky Arts Council and Kentucky Department of Education, the Arts First Aid grant provides Kentucky school administrators, teachers and students with a high quality intensive arts education experience that aligns curriculum with the Kentucky Academic Standards for the Arts. The program makes use of technical-assistance consultancies utilizing the Specialists with Arts Tactics (SWAT) program, artist residencies through the arts council's Teaching Art Together program and school performances/presentations.

Any Kentucky public school, grades pre-K through 12, may apply.

Owsley County Elementary School received an Arts First Aid grant last year, serving about 200 students in second through fourth grades. With the grant, the school brought in several teaching artists, including Devonna Hisel, who helped students apply mathematical principles to making quilt patterns; songwriter Mitch Barrett, who worked with students to create a song about their community; and Judy Sizemore and Octavia Sexton, who taught students about creative writing and storytelling.

"This grant meant a lot to the school and to the teachers," said Glenn Baker, community education director and grant writer for Owsley County Schools. "They're going to take what was taught in the class and continue that in future years. With Devonna Hisel making quilt patterns, one of our fourth grade teachers is going to use that in math lessons. Another teacher is going to use the original songs Mitch Barrett brought with him in lessons with her clogging students, and our third grade teachers are going to incorporate the arts into literacy."

Another component funded by Arts First Aid is a Showcasing the Arts program, and Owsley County Elementary brought in the Somerset folk duo LaMay & Reese to play for third graders and talk about how to put together a song.

"This grant provided the help needed to bring art alive and to make it flourish in an impoverished area that's let it slip from its grasp, somewhat," Baker said. "It was the aid to build and sustain a strong arts program."

Grants like Arts First Aid are a valuable component for schools wanting to inject momentum into their arts curricula, said Kyle Lee, academic standards coordinator for the Kentucky Department of Education's Office of Teaching and Learning.

"As schools and districts are continually being asked to do more with less, the Arts First Aid grant is an amazing resource currently available that will help alleviate burdens while strengthening quality arts opportunities and access for Kentucky's public school students," Lee said.

For more information on Arts First Aid or to apply, contact Jean St. John, arts council arts education director, at jean.stjohn@ky.gov or 502-892-3124.

Federal Funding Bill Enhances National Defense and Border Security

WASHINGTON, DC -- Last week, Congress passed the 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act to provide federal funding for government programs and operations, including the military, national security, veterans benefits, infrastructure, school safety and combating drug abuse. The bill, which also boosts funding to secure our borders and enforces immigration laws by 30 percent, was signed into law by President Trump. It also provides the largest pay raise for American troops in eight years and historic funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs to enhance care for our veterans.

"This legislation provides the largest increase in annual defense funding since the beginning of the War on Terror. It rebuilds and modernizes our military, and gives our warfighters the resources they need to defend our homeland and combat terrorism overseas," said Rogers, who voted in support of the legislation. "It also extends more resources to families of our troops and provides better care for our veterans, enhancing access to proper medical care and reducing the backlog of disability claims."

Bill Highlights for Defense, Homeland Security & Veterans:

Defense

The FY18 Defense bill rebuilds our military, supports our troops, and invests in critical weapons and equipment. It also targets additional funding to requirements identified by military leaders, including higher troop levels, readiness efforts, infrastructure, and equipment modernization.

Overall Defense Spending – provides our men and women in uniform over \$61 billion more dollars over last year's levels, a total of \$654 billion. This is the biggest year-to-year increase in defense spending in 15 years.

Taking Care of Soldiers – includes a 2.4% pay raise for our troops. It also provides \$1.4 billion to ensure quality housing for the more than one million service members using these services, and \$708 million for new or existing military medical facilities to continue support and care for our troops, their families, and wounded troops abroad.

Combating Global Threats – funds our ongoing operations against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and supports increased US military presence in European nations being threatened by Russian aggression through the European Deterrence Initiative.

Readiness and Training – supports readiness programs, increased flight and training time, as well as depot maintenance in order to ensure that our troops and their equipment are prepared for the demands of responding to worldwide threats.

Health Care & Research – provides \$34.4 billion—an increase of \$300 million from FY17-- for the Defense Health Program. This funding will provide comprehensive care for our active duty troops and retirees and crucial research on cancer, traumatic brain injury, cancer, and psychological health.

Homeland & Border Security

Protecting Our Borders - Customs and Border Protection is receiving a \$1.8 billion million increase in funding—which will be used to hire more agents, advanced border technology, and utilize new tools that will help stop the illegal flow of drugs and people across our borders.

It also provides for more than 90 miles of a border wall system (16 more miles than the President's request) by including \$1.57 billion for a physical barrier and associated technology and personnel.

The bill includes \$655.6 million for border and port technology: communications, surveillance systems, opioid detection, and the National Targeting Center.

Enforcing Immigration Laws - Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is getting a \$641 million increase in funding, which will be used for detention, electronic monitoring, GPS tracking, and hiring of additional officers to tackle our nation's illegal immigration crisis.

Deporting Illegal Immigrants -- ICE receives \$159 million to support the identification, location, and arrest of removable aliens in the U.S.

Veterans

Overall VA Funding - Provides \$81.5 billion for the VA, including the largest funding increase for the VA in history - \$7.1 billion (9.5%) above FY17. It funds VA medical care at \$68.8 billion, providing care for more than 7 million veteran and dependent patients.

The bill includes \$782 million for the new VA electronic health record, ensuring our veterans receive proper care, with timely and accurate medical data transferred between identical systems at the VA and the Department of Defense.

The bill seeks to further reduce the disability claims backlog to ensure adequate compensation and care for the almost 500,000 veterans still awaiting final decisions on their claims.

VA Medical priorities - provides funding for the VA's medical priorities, including \$386 million for opioid abuse prevention, \$8.4 billion for mental health care, \$186 million for suicide prevention outreach, \$316 million for traumatic brain injury treatment, \$7.3 billion for homeless veterans treatment, services, housing, and job training, and \$270 million for rural health initiatives, ensuring veterans in rural America, and Kentucky, can receive the care they earned.

KPR Meeting
The Cumberland Valley Chapter of the Kentucky Public Retirees (KPR) will meet Tuesday April 10, 2018 at the Golden Corral Restaurant (next to Wal-Mart) in London, Kentucky. Mealtime will begin at 11:30 AM with the meeting to follow. The guest speaker will be Connie Pettyjohn the Director of Retiree Health Care at the Kentucky Retirement Systems. For more information call 606-877-0079 or 606-260-0490.

Re-Elect Danny Todd Magistrate District #1



Your support and vote will be appreciated.

#2 On
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Paid for by Danny Todd