EOC is excited about YOUR future!
Hello, and thank you for taking the time to view our newsletter. With March brings warmer weather and renewed goals. Have you thought about what you want to accomplish this year? We love our jobs at the EOC and we love helping our participants accomplish their goals—including getting high school equivalency diplomas, getting student loans put back in order, and attainment of associate’s and/or bachelor’s degrees. How can we help you or your friends and family reach their goals? We’re here and waiting, hoping to make your 2020 spectacular!!

--EOC Team

Is College for You, Right Now? Things to Consider

By Charles Mhoon
Malcolm X said “education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today”. If you feel that education is in your future, ask yourself, is college for you? Continuing your education requires commitment and causes one to reprioritize things in life. It is more than just studying and passing test that you have to worry about, especially if you have a family to take care of, or other things that may hinder you from completing things (current or from the past).

Transportation is a huge piece of being successful in college. If you can’t get to class, how will you be successful? Buses are a great resource and means of transportation, especially if one’s finances are not where they would like them to be.

Motivation may be the most important factor to know if college is for you. Whatever it is that may be driving you to start and go to college, may not be the same as what it is that would drive you to finish or, being honest here, quit. I find that there is a difference in what drives someone to start something, and in what drives a person to finish it.

The main thing that I want you to take from reading this, is that to figure out if college is for you, you must first decide if college can be your priority.

“The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.” –Nelson Mandela
Women’s History Month
Did You Know? Women’s History Month started as Women’s History Week.

Every year March is designated Women’s History Month by Presidential proclamation. The month is set aside to honor women’s contributions in American history.

Women’s History Month began as a local celebration in Santa Rosa, California. The Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women planned and executed a “Women’s History Week” celebration in 1978. The organizers selected the week of March 8 to correspond with International Women’s Day. The movement spread across the country as other communities initiated their own Women’s History Week celebrations the following year.

In 1980, a consortium of women’s groups and historians—led by the National Women’s History Project (now the National Women’s History Alliance)—successfully lobbied for national recognition. In February 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the Week of March 8th 1980 as National Women’s History Week.

Subsequent Presidents continued to proclaim a National Women’s History Week in March until 1987 when Congress passed Public Law 100-9, designating March as “Women’s History Month.” Between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed additional resolutions requesting and authorizing the President to proclaim March of each year as Women’s History Month. Since 1995, each president has issued an annual proclamations designating the month of March as “Women’s History Month.”

The National Women’s History Alliance selects and publishes the yearly theme. The 2020 Women’s History Month theme is “Valiant Women of the Vote.” The theme honors “the brave women who fought to win suffrage rights for women, and for the women who continue to fight for the voting rights of others.”

Submitted by Lovely Henderson, taken from: https://www.womenshistory.org/womens-history/womens-history-month

“From the first settlers who came to our shores, from the first American Indian families who befriended them, men and women have worked together to build this nation. Too often the women were unsung and sometimes their contributions went unnoticed. But the achievements, leadership, courage, strength and love of the women who built America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well.

President Jimmy Carter’s Message designating March 2-8, 1980 as National Women’s History Week
In Demand Careers  -Molly Taiber

It is a great time to go to college thanks to the Future Ready Iowa Last Dollar Scholarship, designed to cover most of the cost of college tuition for certain programs that include healthcare, first responders, manufacturing, information and web technology.

UNI’s Educational Opportunity Center can help you apply and enroll in a qualified program at a community college in Iowa and also complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students must be enrolled continuously taking two classes per semester, for the length of the program. A variety of student services offered at the college will help to overcome obstacles and challenges to meet your educational goals. Once the education training is completed, you will earn either a certificate, diploma or an associate’s degree and have career opportunities available to you with salary, benefits and a steady schedule. This is your chance to move ahead and earn an education DEBT FREE.

Community college example

Community college tuition and qualified fees
- Federal and state scholarships and grants = Last-Dollar Scholarship award

Private college example

Average community college tuition and qualified fees
- Federal and state scholarships and grants = Last-Dollar Scholarship award

Crossword Puzzle – Student Aid Terms

Across
1. A period of time when your monthly loan payments are temporarily stopped or reduced, interest will continue to be charged.
2. What happens to student loans when you go 270 days without a payment.
3. A loan expense charged for the use of borrowed money.
4. Period of time after you graduate leave school, or drop below half-time enrollment before the student must begin repayment.
5. The sum of money lent, on which interest is paid.
6. A group is dedicated to helping resolve disputes related to the federal student aid programs.
7. Free money that is based on academic or other achievements, or on financial need, to help pay for school.
8. Financial aid that is typically based on need and typically doesn’t need to be repaid.
9. Money you borrow to pay for college or career school.
10. The organization that made the loan (bank, school, credit union, etc.)

Down
1. Forbearance
2. Ombudsman
3. Scholarships
4. Grants
5. Loan
6. Default
7. Lender
8. Interest
9. Grace