

EOC Newsletter Spring 2014



Located at:

UNI Center for Urban Education

800 Sycamore Street

Waterloo, Iowa 50703

Phone: (319) 433-1230

Fax: (319) 433-0160

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 8:00-5:00

Summer Hours:

Monday-Friday 7:30-4:30

Call us today!

The EOC program provides the following services:

- Career Counseling
- Financial Aid Completion
- Admissions Assistance
- Scholarship Advising
- College Selection
- Referral to High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED) program
- Defaulted Student Loan

University of Northern Iowa's

Educational Opportunity Center

Email: Educational-Opportunity-Center@uni.edu

Website: www.uni.edu/eop/educational-opportunity-center

Note from Assistant Director

Dear EOC Participants and Friends,

Since 1988, the University of Northern Iowa has been the host institution and great supporter of the Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) program. This program provides services for people who are pursuing post secondary education. In addition, the program offers information to those interested in beginning the new High School Completion Program, formerly known as the GED.

A potential student may be eligible to participate in the EOC program if he or she meets the following basic

requirements:

- ◆ is at least 19 years of age, or is less than 19 years of age and cannot be appropriately served by a TRiO Talent Search program
- ◆ is a resident in one of the following counties: Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Chickasaw or Tama
- ◆ has not already earned their Bachelor's Degree

The program provides services to improve the financial and economic literacy of participants. Additionally, an important objective of the program is to counsel students on career options, help with

applying for financial aid and assist in the college application process. The goal of the EOC program is to increase the number of adult participants who enroll in postsecondary education institutions.

The EOC staff is extremely excited about the program and the services it provides and the opportunity to provide educational access which can change lives.

If you or someone you know is interested in furthering their education, give us a call today at 319-433-1230.

Save the date: Educational Opportunity Center's Student Achievement Luncheon

Be sure to save the date for EOC's our annual Student Achievement Luncheon on June 6th. We will be honoring any EOC participant who maintained a 3.0 GPA during the 2013-2014 academic year.

We welcome Inez Murtha

as our key note speaker, and will also hear personal stories from a couple of our own EOC participants.

We look forward to your attendance at this year's luncheon, and please RSVP by May 30th.

When: Friday June 6, 2014

Where: UNI-CUE

800 Sycamore Street

Waterloo, Iowa

Time: 11:30 a.m.-1:00p.m.

RSVP: You and a guest to 319.433.1230

Non-Traditional FAFSA Filing Situations

The FAFSA doesn't take into account additional family situations. Families of dependent students often find that they require additional direction when completing the FAFSA. We've included some examples of additional family situations below:

Divorced or Separated Parents

The parent with whom the student lived with the most during the past 12 months must provide their information on the FAFSA. If the student did not live with one parent more than the other, the parent who provided the most support in the past 12 months must provide their information on the FAFSA. Support includes, but is not limited to: food, shelter, clothing, insurance, and cash support payments.

The parent who claimed the student on their tax return is not necessarily the parent who will provide their information on the FAFSA.

If a joint tax return is filed, the income, assets, taxes paid, and the household size of the parent with whom the student lived (as defined above) are reported on the FAFSA. While a married couple that lives together can't be informally separated, in some states they can be legally separated. If their state allows this, and if they are still living together and are legally separated, then that is their status on the FAFSA.

Stepparents

If the parent the student lived with or received the most support from in the past 12 months is remarried, the stepparent's information must also be reported on the FAFSA.

A prenuptial agreement does NOT exempt a stepparent from providing information required on the FAFSA. If the biological parent with whom the student resided during the past 12 months dies and the stepparent is still living, the student is considered a dependent student of the surviving biological parent OR the stepparent if the student was legally adopted.

Adoptive Parents

Adoptive parents are treated the same as biological parents.

Foster Parents

Foster parents are NOT treated the same as biological parents. A student living with foster parents is a ward of the court and is considered an independent student.

Same-Sex Marriages

The U.S. Department of Education announced that it will recognize all legal same-sex marriages for the purposes of applying for and receiving federal financial aid through the FAFSA. Under the new guidance, federal officials will treat same-sex marriages the same as heterosexual marriages—provided the couple is married in a jurisdiction that recognizes the marriage—regardless of where the student or couple resides or where the financial aid will be used.

Unmarried, Both Parents Living Together

This new parent marital status option will allow for the collection of data from both legal parents when the parents are not married to each other.

AES, American Education Services, Counselor's Corner, January 2014.

College Spotlight

small university. BIG EDUCATION.

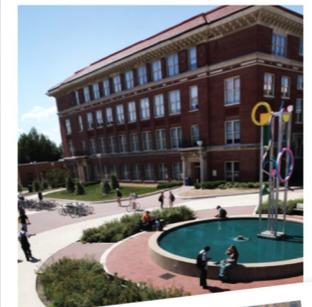
At UNI, our small classes are taught by professors, not teaching assistants, who are leaders and experts in their field. We offer more than 150 majors, areas of emphasis and pre-professional programs (like pre-medicine, pre-nursing and pre-law).

UNI has state-of-the-art facilities — classrooms, labs, performance spaces and instructional technology — necessary for your success. We also have academic advisers to help you from day one, and offer a variety of free academic services and resources like tutoring and workshops.

Career and internship services are provided to help you get the experience you need to succeed after graduation. And our graduates are successful, too; 92 percent are employed or attending graduate school within six months of graduation.

And before you start worrying too much about paying for college, know that 84 percent of UNI students receive financial aid each year. Plus, UNI graduates have the lowest indebtedness of any four-year public institution in the state.

For all these reasons and many more, let UNI give you the opportunities and confidence to discover the big future that is waiting for you.



 **University of
Northern Iowa**

The University of Northern Iowa is an equal opportunity employer with a comprehensive plan for affirmative action.