

Opportunity Knocks

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Career Exploration at the click of a mouse!

Did you know that as a resident of Massachusetts you have access to a wonderful career database? All you need is an internet connection. MassCIS (Career Information System) has many excellent features and can be used for many purposes. If you want to learn more about an occupation, MassCIS has detailed occupational information on over 450 careers, including national and local salary information and employment outlook.

If you are trying to find the right career for you, MassCIS has lots of excellent tools. The O*Net Interest Profiler lets you take an online interest assessment. You will be asked to rate whether you would like or dislike over 150 activities. Your results are automatically tabulated and you will receive lists of occupations that match your highest interests. The O*Net Work Importance Locator helps you prioritize the work values that matter most to you, and

again provides a list of matching occupations.

You can also use either of two occupation sorts to sift out a list of occupations suited to you. You can specify salary, level of education, and whether or not you wish to work with people, etc.

Finally, if you are researching colleges you can use MassCIS for that too. You can sort for colleges by size, major, state, tuition and then you can use the scholarship search function to assist you with financial aid.

To log on go to <http://detma.org> and select career information system from the left side menu. Then click on the Massachusetts Career Information System to enter the program. You need your home town and zip code to log in and you're ready to go. For a custom tour or more information contact your Counselor or Education Specialist.

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Career Corner

Are you looking to study in a field that will get you a good paying job when you graduate? According to the Massachusetts Department of Employment and Training (DETMA), careers in the Health and Computer fields have the best growth projections for the next 5 years. That means that in the future these fields will need skilled people to fill anticipated job openings.

Job Spotlight

Medical Assistant

1. Perform basic medical duties.
2. Work in doctor's offices and hospitals
3. Wear uniforms/safety gear such as latex-gloves
4. May work evenings or weekends
5. Training usually lasts one to two years
6. May need to complete specific training or exams

Earn \$23,940 per year (national average)

Computer Support Specialist

Usually help either coworkers or general customers

Often use phones and e-mail to solve problems

Might work evenings and weekends

Usually train through vocational and two year schools

Some gain experience through hobbies or other jobs

Update skills by attending training sessions

Earn \$39,100 per year (national average)

(Massachusetts Career Information System. Department of Employment and Training Retrieved March 21, 2005 from <http://masscis.intocareers.org>

9 Career Growth Jobs

1. Medical Assistant
2. Home Health Aide
3. Medical Records/Health Information Technologist
4. Occupational Therapy Assistant
5. Physical Therapy Assistant
6. Computer Support Specialist
7. Computer/Software Engineer
8. Network System Administrator
9. Network Systems/Data Analyst

Financial Aid Vocabulary Builders

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Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

The amount a student and his or her family are expected to pay toward the cost of attendance. It is calculated from the financial information provided by the student and his or her family, including the student's spouse.

Financial Aid

Money awarded to students to help them pay for education. Aid is given as loans, grants, scholarships, or work-study. Some forms of financial aid need to be repaid after graduation.

Financial Aid Package

An offer by an educational institution of one or more forms of financial aid, such as loans, grants, scholarships, and work-study. These funds are combined to produce a "package" to meet a student's financial need.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

A free financial aid application form used to determine eligibility for need-based federal financial aid. Applications are accepted after January 1. Early application is strongly encouraged.

Grant

A form of financial aid that does not have to be repaid or earned by working. Grants usually are based on financial need; however, academic merit may also be considered.

Student Aid Report (SAR)

A report that indicates a student's eligibility for federal financial aid as determined by the information submitted on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students may use this form to correct any information that has changed since the FAFSA was submitted.

Verification

The process of confirming that information submitted on the student's financial aid application is correct.

Spotlight on Success

The EOC staff offers their congratulations to Sylvia Woodgett who will be graduating with honors from MWCC in May. Sylvia began her studies in September 2003. She is currently waiting to receive an acceptance letter from Fitchburg State College where she plans to enroll this fall as a human service major. As if she wasn't busy enough, Sylvia, along with her husband, is helping to raise four of her five grandchildren.

She is also actively involved in a community service project involving the creation of a youth center and has recently completed a training program with a local Battered Women's service agency. We applaud Sylvia for the hard work and dedication she applies to her school work, family, and community. Go Sylvia!!!



If you are graduating this May let us know!

Staff Directory for the North Central EOC

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In Our Community—by Sayra Pinto

Organizational Description

The Twin Cities Latino Coalition adheres to a vision of diverse stakeholders embracing, supporting and collaborating with the Latino community and providing Latino families and children quality comprehensive educational and support services. As a result, Latino families and children will maximize their utilization of available resources, assuming leadership positions in the broader community and achieving their highest academic and personal potential.

The Coalition builds relationships with:

- a) the local educational institutions to promote systemic change, implement the concrete goals of the strategic plan, seize strategic opportunities to enhance systemic change efforts
- b) local, regional and statewide organizations, leaders, residents, and business leaders to work together to create the conditions required to increase Latino leadership and enhance opportunities for academic success for parents, children, youth, and young adults.

During its first year of implementation, the Coalition has convened a systems change committee to oversee the successful implementation of specific action steps in the strategic plan; a parent leadership group to begin to increase Latino parental civic participation; a youth leadership team to generate appropriate positive youth leadership development programming; and a community development team seeking to create a youth development center for high risk youth in Fitchburg and Leominster.

The Coalition is seeking interested community residents to become members of its parent group and the youth leadership team. Please feel free to call Sayra or Jasson at (978) 840-3221 x167.

Call Us Today!
North Central EOC
100 Erdman Way
Leominster, MA 01453
(978) 840-0176 x 107

ESL Program moving to Leominster!

If you have your high school diploma or GED and you need help improving your English skills—Mount Wachusett Community College is bringing college ESL classes to your door!

Many students are already enrolled in the evening ESL program in Fitchburg. This fall a third ESL group will begin in Fitchburg. In Leominster the first ESL day class will be offered for beginning ESL students. By September 2006 the full ESL program will be up and running on the Leominster campus.

If you are interested in starting college and taking ESL this fall, please see us for application and financial aid assistance! If you are already in the program - send us your friends, family and neighbors - everyone is welcome!

There will be a free information session on May 17, 2005 at 4:00 on the Leominster Campus.

El Programa De Inglés Como Segundo Idioma Se Muda Para Leominster!

Si ud tiene un diploma de Escuela Superior ó un GED y necesita ayuda mejorando sus destrezas del Inglés-el Colegio de Mount Wachusett está trayendo las clases de ESL a nivel de colegio a su puerta!

Muchos estudiantes ya están matriculados en el programa de ESL de noche en Fitchburg. Este otoño un tercer grupo de ESL comenzará en Fitchburg. En Leominster la primera clase de ESL durante el día se ofrecerá para estudiantes principiantes. Para Septiembre del 2006 el programa entero de ESL estará en pies y corriendo en el campus de Leominster.

Si ud está interesado(a) en empezar colegio y en tomar clases de ESL este otoño, favor de vernos para una aplicación y asistencia con ayuda financiera! Si ud ya está en el programa-mandenos a sus amigos, su familia y vecinos-todo el mundo está bienvenido!

Habrá una sesión de información gratuita el 17 de Mayo, 2005 a las 4:00 PM en el Campus de Leominster.



NORTH CENTRAL
EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY CENTER
A COLLEGE ACCESS & PREPARATION
PROGRAM

Mount Wachusett Community College
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Email: akaplan@mwcc.mass.edu

<http://eoc.mwcc.edu>
www.mwcc.edu



North Central EOC Hours/ Horas

The EOC is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For your convenience we are open until 7:00 p.m. every Tuesday.

Location a concern? Our specialists can meet with you closer to home in satellite locations in Athol, Ayer, Clinton, Fitchburg, or Gardner.

Just call (978) 840-0176 ext 107 and set up your appointment today!

North Central EOC Horas: Lunes a Viernes 8:30 a.m. a 4:30 p.m. Martes hasta 7:00 p.m.

Especialistas de Educación también ofrecen servicios en estas otras localidades: Athol, Ayer, Clinton, Fitchburg, Gardner

Favor de llamar hoy para obtener una cita:
(978) 840-0176 ext 107

Your Horoscope! - Su Horóscopo!

Hey Taurus, take the bull by the horns and start planning for your education this fall! The stars point to greater earning potential and increased employability if you use your spring to apply to a training of your choice. When the moon aligns with Jupiter your application for financial aid may yield grant monies to help you pay for school.

Consult your resident "astrologist" at the North Central Educational Opportunity Center to help guide you on your path!

(978) 840-0176

Holly (Sagittarius) ext 145

Ali (Scorpio) ext 104

Yong (Pisces) ext 107

Val (Leo) ext 105

Kathy (Scorpio) ext 144

Oye Tauro, toma el buey por los cuernos y empieza a planear su educación este Otoño! Las estrellas apuntan hacia mejor potencial de ganancias y aumento de empleabilidad si ud usa ésta primavera para aplicar a un entrenamiento de su gusto. Y cuando la luna se alinie con Jupiter su aplicación para ayuda financiera podra conceder dinero para ayudarle a pagar la escuela.

Consulte su "astrologa" residente del Centro de Oportunidad Educativa del North Central para que le guie por su camino!



The North Central Educational Opportunity Center is funded by a federal TRIO grant from the Department of Education. The EOC grant is administered by Mount Wachusett Community College.

If you have a disability and may require accommodations in order to participate fully in program activities, please contact the director of the program to discuss your specific needs.

Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution