

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- The Annual Financial Aid Workshop for Parents will be offered on Wednesday, December 9th at 7 pm in the EOS lecture hall. Mona Lucas, Director of Financial Aid at ECSU, will conduct the workshop.
- PSAT Score Reports will be mailed home to students in early December.
- Check the Guidance eboard, available on the school web site, for information updates.
- "Making Life Work", a program described in the previous edition of this publication, will launch in early November. For more information, check the eboard.
- Parents should register on the Naviance Program if they have not done so already. Contact Guidance if more information is needed.

Counseling E-News

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NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

Early Opportunity Scholarships Available

Does this headline grab your attention? In this age of higher costs for higher education, it certainly deserves some notice. And scholarships are indeed available to most EOS students—in fact they may even be secured before students walk the stage at graduation. Here's how.

EOSHS has been, for several years now, offering University of CT (UC) courses through the Early College Experience (ECE) Program. With twenty-five UC courses in the EOS curriculum, eligible students are granted the opportunity to earn college credits while simultaneously fulfilling high school graduation requirements. It's not uncommon for students to complete 10 college credits while enrolled at EOS. Many earn more than 20 credits, and some have acquired as many

as sixty.

To put this in perspective, a typical yearly load in college is 30 credits. At UC, a year's tuition is



\$8700. So, let's do the math. Thirty credits equals \$7600, and 30 credits cost EOS students \$0. This is, in effect, an \$7600 scholarship (never mind book costs).

And that's not all. The Career Pathways Program, offered through the community college system, is still another way in which EOS students may access

college courses while never leaving "home". Eleven community college courses are offered through either Manchester Community College or Quinnebaug Valley Community College. The dollar value of these courses is about \$2200 per 15 credit semesters.

Most all of these courses are transferable to all of the in-state public institutions and to most out-of-state public institutions as well. Several private colleges and universities will also accept these credits, depending upon each school's transfer credit policy.

Early Opportunity Scholarships (EOS) can reduce the rising cost of higher education while increasing the likelihood of degree completion. The work is here, and it's an investment in one's future to do the work now.

Crunching the Costs of Higher Education

Let's do some numbers to build a better understanding of these "early opportunity scholarships".

25 UC courses are offered in the EOS curriculum.
142 seats taken in Science courses taught at EOS
155 students are enrolled in UC Math courses

33 are taking UC English
60 are sitting for UC World Language courses
211 seats are occupied for UC courses offered in the Social Studies Dept.
1933 total credits available to students for the

2009-10 school year.
30 normal yearly credit load
\$7600 cost of annual tuition
\$502, 580

The total value of UC courses offered at EOS on the basis of current enrollment in these classes.

Student Engagement Survey Continued...



In the previous issue of *"Counseling E-News"*, mention was made of the High School Student Engagement Survey that the Guidance Department administered to most EOS students back in May 2008. Each addition of this publication will reveal results of the survey. What follows are some of the findings.

The total number of respondents was 974, with 414 students enrolled in mostly "A" level courses, 452 in mostly

"B" level, and 108 in primarily "G" level courses. The female-male breakdown... "A" had a 57% (F) to 43% (M) split, "B" was 48% to 52%, and "G" saw a 42% to 58% disparity.

Responding to the statement "I am engaged in school", 80% of the "A" group agreed, while 68% of the "B" and 70% of the "G" students agreed as well. Overall, 91% of students in "A" level felt "good about being in this school" compared to 77% of "B" level students

and 80% of "G" level students.

In terms of being "treated fairly in this school", 66% of "G", 75% of "B" and 86% of "A" students agreed, while 72%, of "G", 73% of "B", and 83% of "A" level agreed that "I can be who I am at this school".

Most all the students agreed that "there is at least one adult in the school who cares about me, with 95% of "A" level, 91% of "B" level, and 89% of "G" level students feeling this way.

New SAT

Reporting Policy

The College Board is now offering a **Score Choice** option to students when reporting SAT scores to colleges. Scores may be selected and sent by test date. Otherwise, all scores will be sent as previously.

Naviance and EBoard Are Important Links

As mentioned in the first newsletter made available on-line in September, the Guidance Department is looking to increase its utilization of Naviance, a comprehensive website that is subscription-based. EOS has purchased a subscription and, thus, it is free to members of the school community (with use of a protected password that can be acquired from the Guidance Office). Naviance is the portal through which the department will communicate electronically with students, parents, colleges and universities. There is also postsecondary information available on the site that users may find pertinent to their needs.

Students and parents are also encouraged to visit the Guidance eboard (www.eosmith.org and click on the tab labeled "Eboards"). There are several pages on the board, and tabs are labeled by grade in addition to the page that provides general information. A calendar is posted as well and visitors will find important dates listed. The eboard will be updated regularly.

Both sites are designed to provide up-to-date information. Stay current with frequent visits to both.

SAT Scores Remain High

The College Board recently released to the public aggregate data on SAT scores for the 2009 graduating classes. Average scores nationwide remained relatively stable, and so did the mean scores earned by the EOS class of 2009.

On a national level, over 1.5 million test-takers tallied a collective score of 501 in Critical Reading (CR), 515 in Math (M), and 493 in Writing (W). Connecticut had close to 38000 students sit for at least one SAT, and average scores earned were 509 (CR), 513 (M), and 512 (W). Locally, EOS fared much better, with 159 students scoring an average of 564 in Critical Reading, 580 in Math, and 554 in Writing.

Schools receiving the most SAT scores from EOS students who requested they be sent were UConn (80), ECSU (46), CCSU (24), University of VT (18), and Keene State (12).



Graduation Rates At CT Colleges May Surprise

More students are matriculating to colleges and universities these days, but more are not completing degree requirements. And this is a growing concern among educators and employers alike. The collective data is troubling if not alarming. Last year, the CT Department of Labor collaborated with the Commission on Higher Education to produce a report that speaks to the issue of degree completion, majors, and employment. Some of the findings are listed below.

Seven out of 10 CT public college graduates are working in the state...45% of the graduates are working in Education and Health Services...employed graduates earned an average of over \$40,000...the majority of employed graduates are women...in terms of gender, females who majored in Computer & Information Services, Engineering-related Technologies, Public Administration & Services, or Health Professions & Related Sciences had the highest employment rate (+80%) while males who majored in Public Administration & Services had the highest rate (+80%). Liberal Arts & Sciences graduates were working in virtually all industries...75% of students entering as freshmen at UConn graduated in six years, and 57% of employed graduates were women...44% of freshmen graduated from CCSU in six years...other six year rates were 48% at ECSU, 34% at SCSU, and 37% at WCSU ...community colleges as a group posted a three-year graduation rate (calculated on a two-year Associate's Degree) of about 20%.

For the complete report, go to Guidance eboard at www.eosmith.org, and click on "Helpful Resources".



Wit & Wisdom

You know you're children are growing up when they stop asking where they came from and refuse to tell you where they're going.
P. J. O'Rourke

Each day of our lives we make deposits in the memory banks of our children.
Charles R. Swindoll

If evolution really works, how come mothers only have two hands?
Milton Berle

Frosh Survey On Transition To EOS

The Guidance Department recently began bringing ninth-graders into the LMC Computer Lab to assist them in registering on Naviance and to complete a survey. With cooperation from the Physical Education Department, students are being scheduled through their PE classes. At the time this publication was being released, 210 (of 299) students had done both Naviance and the survey.

The results of the survey thus far indicate that the transition for most has been relatively smooth, that they feel safe at school, that they are being challenged in their classes, that many have been somewhat surprised by the grades they've earned, and that they know whom to ask when they have questions about school.

When asked how best to describe "my transition from middle school to the high school", 4% indicated it was "hard", 12% "challenging", 56% "okay", and 28% "easy". After learning about the grades they had earned during the first six weeks, 19% felt that "I worked hard and am proud of my accomplishments", 66% reported that "Overall I am satisfied, but I know areas to improve", and 15% admitted that "I performed below my potential". Thirty-seven percent indicated they were not surprised by the grades they had earned, 54% were surprised by the grades they had received in one or two classes, and 10% were totally surprised and thought their "grades would be totally different". Twenty-five percent of respondents chose "yes" to the question—

"Would you like to receive tutorial help in any of your subjects from a peer tutor ."

Most students (92%) expressed comfort in approaching someone on staff if they had questions or were confused about something. Many felt comfortable asking friends or older siblings as well (77%). Forty-one percent also mentioned that they would ask or have asked their parents for help when faced with issues in their transition.

Some other issues addressed were—74% planned to attend a 4-year college or university, 14% were looking to 2-year colleges, 6% were strongly considering work immediately upon high school graduation, 5% were planning on enlisting in the military, and 1% expressed a desire for vocational or specialized schools; 56% are very satisfied with their social lives thus far, while 39% are satisfied, 5% expressed some difficulty, and 1% admitted that "I could use help with this".

Finally, about 11% were spending more than 3 hours each night on homework, 26% were spending 2-3 hours, 50% were devoting 1-2 hours, 10% less than one hour and 3% no time at all.

Short answer items were also included. In the survey and students were candid in their responses. Rest assured that counselors will be responding to issues of concern expressed by individual students in this

