



Keystone College

Spring 2017

Guidance Counselor Newsletter

BELIEVE. BELONG. **BECOME.**

Head-start on college: Discounted summer courses for high school students

Summer courses are a great way for new students to get a jump start on their college degree. They can take credits to lighten their semester course load or accelerate their degree completion, get a taste for college life, meet other new students before the school year starts, and try out their major. Courses start in June or July, in 5-week, 7-week, and 10-week sessions, and are available on campus and online. Course subjects include science, math, English, business, studio arts, and many others.

They can brush up on Algebra, or learn glass blowing!

This summer Keystone College is offering courses at one of our most affordable rates in years. The cost for all undergraduate courses is **\$299 per credit, including all textbooks**. Keystone College rolls the cost of texts and course materials into tuition year-round through the IncludeED program.

Since textbooks cost an average of \$1,000 per year this is a big savings for our students. Textbooks are a necessity for students to be successful in their classes, yet research shows one third of college students have gone without the book or required course materials at some point in their education, and only 28% of new students have the required materials on day one. Keystone's IncludeED program ensures that this never happens. Additionally, full-time students receive a free tablet to further provide ease of access to digital texts. Anything not available in digital format will be provided to the students in hard copy. This program is yet another way Keystone College is making great strides to ease financial worries.

More information about summer courses can be found at

www.keystone.edu/2017summerdiscounts/



Encourage your students to visit our beautiful 276-acre campus!

www.keystone.edu/visit

• **Saturday Visits:**

- May 6th
- June 17th
- July 15th
- August 5th

• **Daily Tours**

- Monday-Thursday
10am & 1pm
- Friday
10am

• **Schedule a group tour for your students this fall!**



Inside this issue:

Liberal Arts degrees are the future

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Keystone Commitment gaining ground: Loan Repayment Assistance Program

First introduced to you in our fall 2016 newsletter, the Keystone Commitment is our newest initiative to help pave the way to an affordable education. Provided at no charge to all first-time, full-time freshmen pursuing a baccalaureate degree, the Keystone Commitment aims to ease the burden of student loan debt.

Keystone is 100% committed to providing an affordable education, which is why we partnered with the Loan Repayment



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Assistance Program (LRAP) Association in the first place. Students should be able to pursue the career of their choice, without student loan debt standing in their way. Once they are employed full-time after graduation, if they earn less than \$40,000 per year, we will help repay their student (and parent PLUS) loans until they do. We make this bold pledge because we believe in the value of a Keystone education, and are that confident in the

preparedness of our graduates.

We understand the financial concerns that most students and parents have about college, and this safety-net is how we address these concerns. It sounds too good to be true, but we assure you it's not and we invite you to visit the program's website at www.keystone.edu/lrap to read the fine print and learn more.

“Keystone College wants its graduates to pursue their dream jobs without the worry of student debt.”

-The Times-Tribune



Liberal arts degrees are the future

While there has been a sharp focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) disciplines for many years, the liberal arts have in some regard been overlooked in exchange for hyper-focused degrees in those particular fields. Of course providing students with STEM opportunities is instrumental to creating the next generation of engineers, scientists, and mathematicians, but what happened to history, literature, and social science? Do they have any worth in college curriculum?

Employers now say that they highly desire an applicant with a liberal arts education. Why is that?

The liberal arts have been known to create a well-rounded student—a student with “a demonstrated capacity to think critically, communicate clearly, and solve complex problems” (AACU, 2013). **As Generation Z goes to college, employers recognize the demand for highly adaptable workers, and those students understand that need.** No longer are graduates staying with their first job out of college through life's journey of marriage, children, and retirement. Most people now change jobs at least 6 times during their lifetime (Ray, 2013). Thus, there is a desire for college graduates to be flexible problem-solvers.

Liberal arts educators have known this and have been producing high-achieving graduates for centuries (or millennia, if you date back to Plato and Socrates). The most successful companies in the world also know this, as “a third of all Fortune 500 CEOs have liberal arts degrees” (Ray, 2013). In a changing economy that still feels the effects of the most recent recession, **incoming college students and their parents must realize that the liberal arts is not an enemy but a emboldening ally.**

At Keystone College, we educate students through a curriculum in the liberal arts tradition that values real world experience and research. In our small, supportive community, Keystone challenges students to not just explore beyond their major, but seek out leadership positions on campus, actively communicate with their advisor and career development staff starting their first semester, and engage diversely with their peers from all over the world. More than any other college, Keystone believes in the value of its degree and **guarantees its graduates success through the Keystone Promise.** The Keystone Promise is our pledge to every student that within six months of graduating from Keystone he or she will have received at least one job offer or been accepted into a transfer or graduate program. For more information on Keystone College’s liberal arts education and our unique resources, check out www.keystone.edu/admissions/why-keystone/



Association of American Colleges & Universities. (2013). *Employers More Interested in Critical Thinking and Problem Solving Than College Major* [Press release]. Retrieved from <http://www.aacu.org/press/press-releases/employers-more-interested-critical-thinking-and-problem-solving-college-major>

Ray, E. (2013). *The Value of a Liberal Arts Education in Today's Global Marketplace*. *Huffington Post - The Blog*. Retrieved April 15, 2017, from http://www.huffingtonpost.com/edward-j-ray/the-value-of-a-liberal-arts-education_b_3647765.html



Keystone College

One College Green
PO Box 50
La Plume, PA 18440-0200

Phone: 570-945-8111
Fax: 570-945-7916
E-mail:
admissions@keystone.edu



BELIEVE. BELONG. BECOME.

Mobile
glassblowing
unit travels to
area high
schools

Keystone
visited the
White House

Keystone
adds 21st
variety sport:
**Women's
Golf**



Campus undergoing
new construction during
Summer 2017!

