

2018
APRIL

EOC STAR



TRiO
EDUCATIONAL
OPPORTUNITY CENTERS

TRiO
WORKS

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What is EOC?

The TRiO EOC is a federally funded program to assist residents of Mecklenburg, Union and Gaston counties, 16 years of age and above, gain access to higher education. The program focuses on first-generation college students and individuals from economically challenged households.

All services are FREE.

Educational Opportunity Center Academic Institute of Central Carolina



Greetings from the Executive Director, Deborah J. Kingsberry

Executive Director, **Deborah Kingsberry** established Academic Institute of Central Carolina (AICC) in Charlotte, North Carolina in 2009. The agency offers pre-college services to residents of Mecklenburg, Union, and Gaston Counties. Deborah served as the North Carolina Council of Education Opportunity Personnel (NCCEOP) president from 2003 to 2007. Prior to starting AICC, Ms. Kingsberry was Director of Upward Bound/Talent Search at Central Piedmont in Charlotte, NC for 12 years.

From 2009 to 2015, Ms. Kingsberry was owner/President of Academic Achievement Academy a tutoring company in North and South Carolina which provided tutorial services to low performing students in eligible schools from 25 school districts.

Ms. Kingsberry holds a BS in Social Work and Criminal Justice from Ball State University, an MPA in Public Management from Indiana University, and is an Upward Bound graduate from the University of Notre Dame.

Ms. Kingsberry is passionate about education and tasked to help individuals overcome barriers while on their pursuit of educational opportunities and believes that all should Be Seen, Be Heard and Be Remembered.

Sincerely,
Deborah Kingsberry

NINE TENTHS OF EDUCATION IS ENCOURAGEMENT



How a College Education Will Change Your Life

There has always been an area of struggle to many and an area that you could likely excel in. The EOC Program is here to provide assistance to help you achieve academic success.

Your life experience in college begins with a commitment to learning at a higher level, then a transfer to a two- or four- year college to continue your dreams in a desired field of study. Please don't get discouraged due to financial reasons or other challenges of life.

A college education would change your life and put you on a path to a better life; a life with opportunities, advancement and success along the way. Once you have discovered your talent in life, you can share your experiences with others. Together we can help you to overcome any obstacle preventing you from completing your education.

Academic Institute of

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Good enough is not good enough if it can be better. Dr. Rick Rigsby

The Power From Within

By Joanne Stephens

Each day when we wake up, we have the power to make the day a good one or a bad one. Yes, we do have the power and the choice is ours. Try to think in terms of making the day a good one. I know it's hard to believe, but you, me, we have the power to give each day our best shot. This doesn't mean that giving our best shot is going to make the day perfect, but it does mean that if we are working toward a positive outcome, the obstacles that face us may be easier to handle.

Each day is our own personal work of art. We can sculpt it in a way that will make us happy and define our reasons for being. Life is short. We all know that life is short, but we tend to think in terms of making tomorrow better. Our thoughts should be in making each moment of the day we are working through the happiest that it can be. This doesn't necessarily mean that as hard as we may try to make every moment happy that we can make it so, but it does mean that if we are working for a positive outcome, the obstacles that face us may be easier to handle.

Each day gives us an opportunity to view the people in our lives and those we encounter in a positive light. Be pleasant and encouraging. Give others the benefit of the doubt. Don't let anger get the best of you. Don't let envy get the best of you. Don't let negativity in any manifestation get the best of you. Think before you act. Moreover, if you are not certain of what you are acting on, asking questions about the situation will give you a chance to clarify your perceptions before you act. This doesn't necessarily mean that clarifying your perceptions before you act will always provide you with the appropriate answer to the situation, but it does mean that if we are working for a positive outcome, the obstacles that face us may be easier to handle.

Life may never be exactly the way you want it to be, but that's what makes it interesting and challenging. Sometime surprises lurk behind closed doors and in the light of day, we must deal with them. We must maintain a sense of positivity so we can be mentally and emotionally prepared to embrace the challenges with love, turn them into learning experiences, and look forward to the next one.

Remember, embrace the challenges with love no matter how they come to you and know...it's all good.

SPRING Into Action

Spring has finally arrived! The snow is melting and the days are longer. The brains of spring breakers have returned to normal and some are looking for ways to upgrade areas of their lives. Spring cleanings sounds like a good idea. Spring cleaning is a deeper cleaning process. It takes thought and a plan of attack, to include a checklist. Before getting started, the hard part is making sure you have the necessary tools; brooms, mops, towels, cleaning supplies, helping hands, etc. You get the idea, right? Once you are ready to start, the process can be daunting and will take time. The results of the hard work will be well worth it in the end. In addition to finding ways to improving their surroundings, many people are look to overhaul other aspects of their life. Sometimes this includes getting in shape, taking up a hobby or considering a career change. The basic principles are the same. You must have a plan or a goal, make a checklist and gather all the necessary tools. In considering a career change, additional education may be a vital part of the plan. That's where the Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) program comes in. The EOC program provides free assistance to adult students 16 and older that do not have their GED and those seeking to re-enter college. Those enrolled in the program can get one-on-one assistance with developing a academic plan, completing admissions forms and financial aid forms. The EOC program also works in partnership with community agencies to assist students as needed. Now is the time to Spring Into Action!



10 Reasons Adults Go Back to School

1. Invest in yourself
2. Increase your earning potential
3. Better employment opportunities
4. Do something new
5. Follow your dreams
6. Conquer your fears
7. Start a business
8. Meet new people and network
9. Improve your self-esteem
10. Set a good example

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE. THE WORD ITSELF SAYS I'M POSSIBLE.

--Audrey Hepburn

Where to Start?

- ~Call the EOC Staff for an appointment.
- ~Take a career interest inventory to help you match your interest with career possibilities.
- ~Learn about career options, skills, and educational requirements for those careers.
- ~Determine potential earnings in your fields of interest.



Dealing with Life's Interruptions

Unfortunate situations can upset your life. Mishaps' such as job loss, death, separation, and more. They can cause you to be discouraged or even depressed. Many people don't share what they are going through because they are afraid of being judged or that others won't understand. The following can help you cope.

- Speak up
- Make a game plan
- Ask for help



The Education Opportunity Center (EOC) set out to help approximately 1000 students in Mecklenburg, Gaston and Union with GED and enrollment to the

college, university, career technology center and financial aid assistance.

EOC exceeded the goal by successfully helping

26% obtained Secondary School Diploma;

79% completed Financial Aid Applications;

66% completed Postsecondary Education Admissions; and

86% completed Postsecondary Education Enrollment.

EOC CAN HELP YOU:

- ◆ Enroll in a GED or Adult High School Program
- ◆ Answer questions about college
- ◆ Identify colleges that meet your needs
- ◆ Apply for financial aid
- ◆ Complete college applications
- ◆ Find Scholarships
- ◆ Locate college preparation & support programs
- ◆ Resolve defaulted student loan

The secret of getting ahead is getting started. Mark Twain

*** FINANCIAL AID REMINDER ***

If you are considering starting school anytime between now and the fall of 2018, and have not filled out a federal financial aid application (2017-2018 FAFSA) year, you should do it right away.

Call (704) 536-9742 to make an appointment with the EOC staff.

Note: Apply for FSA ID online at studentaid.ed.gov

Will need 2015 and/or 2016 Income and Tax Information



Did you graduate?

Did you move?

Phone number changed?

New email address?

Do you have a story you are willing to share with others? EOC would like to share your story. Call the office 704-536-9742

Participant
Spotlight