

The Achiever

THE ARTHUR O. EVE

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM (EOP)

**The College at Brockport
Division of Enrollment
Management and Student
Affairs**



FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Moving On

I will begin by simply saying hello and welcome back to each of you. I hope you had a successful and fruitful winter break and came back rested and full of energy. I want to congratulate all of you for your academic achievements for this past fall semester. I was very pleased to see so many of you with very respectful Fall semester GPAs. It is my hope that all of you can continue to reach even higher. Remember our goal is academic excellence and each of you agreed to, "do everything you could to get the best grade possible."

I assume most of you noticed the changes in the EOP aid you received. Although I would love to take all the credit I can't. You can thank your New York State Legislators for that. I hope you have signed up to go to Albany with us on February 29, 2016 for EOP Advocacy Day so we can thank them personally.

Be safe and rise to your best height.

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EOP CHECK RELEASE DATES

MARCH 8, 2016
APRIL 14, 2016
MAY 4, 2016

February 2016



REMINDER...
YOUR FAFSA/TAP APPLICATIONS MUST BE
SUBMITTED BY
FEBRUARY 28, 2016.
SEE YOU EOP COUNSELOR FOR DETAILS

MEET OUR NEW GRADUATE COUNSELORS

My name is **Wafaa Taha**. I'm a native of Rochester. I studied Spanish and International Studies at the University at Buffalo and graduated in 2009. I currently attend The College at Brockport and I'm enrolled in the Masters of Public Administration Program. I'm one of the Graduate Counselor in the Arthur O. Eve Opportunity for Higher Education Program. In my free time I enjoy listening and dancing to different types of music, cooking, and hanging out with friends.



My name is **Aisa Purak**, and I am a graduate student in the Department of History at the College at Brockport, State University of New York. I am pursuing a Master's Degree in World History. I came from a small and beautiful country called Bosnia and Herzegovina and like so many other refugees from Bosnia, I left to save my daughter's life and my own. The end of my long journey took me to the United States of America, where I was able to feel at home again and organize my life, the way I always strive; to get back to school and taste the sweetness of learning.

WE NEED YOU!!



On **Monday February 29th**, will be **EOP/HEOP/REOC Advocacy Day** in Albany where we, EOP students and staff, across the state travel to Albany to express our gratitude and to encourage our state lawmakers to continue their support to our EOP program.

See your EOP counselor to help support the program!

Join the **EOP Family**
February 26th As we

CELEBRATE
Black History Month

Don't miss out on a wonderful cultural experience with delicious food, activities and performances!!!!

When: 2:30pm-4:30pm
Seymour Union-Ballroom

For more information contact: **Latasha Craig @ 395-5437**
Lisa Jones @ 395-5819

Brought to you by EOP

Brockport's Women of Distinction

EMPOWERING WOMEN

TUESDAYS 7-9 PM

CALLING ALL LADIES
Want to Get Connected?

CHAT ABOUT NETWORKING
 COMMUNITY BUILDING
 DEVELOP LEADERSHIP SKILLS

JOIN US!
 Union 220

Notes from the EOP Academic Coordinator...Debra A. Joseph-McEwen

Greetings EOP Scholars,

Many of you are realizing the wonderful academic supports (i.e. **EOP-One-on-One Tutoring, PAL and Writing Workshops and Student Learning Center**) that are available to you to boost, strengthen, and maintain a “healthy” GPA as well as increase your chances of academic success. KUDOS TO YOU!!! **Tutoring can make a difference! Even tutors have tutors!!!** Some of you are already attesting to the impact that tutoring is making in your learning experiences! To those in STEM and Nursing prerequisite courses, I **STRONGLY URGE YOU USE the PAL Program**, an additional layer of supports to increase your course success rate. Remember to:

- ◆ Attend **AND** pay attention in class
- ◆ Study smart
- ◆ Take good notes
- ◆ Visit your professor’s office hours or schedule appointments to meet with them
- ◆ Use academic supports to increase your chances of success



The College Brockport Leadership Development Program offers students the opportunity to engage in a variety of experiences that have been shown to have a significant impact on students’ leadership development. The program utilizes the following methods to encourage leadership development in a diverse world.

For more information and to register for the Leadership Development Program, please go to the Leadership Development Program’s webpage at www.brockport.edu/leadership/.



FINANCIAL AID NEWS



This is an exciting time of year. If you have not yet done so, you need to get started on the financial aid renewal process for the 2016-2017 academic year. In this newsletter is a financial aid checklist with your process obligations. **REVIEW THIS DOCUMENT VERY CAREFULLY WITH YOUR EOP COUNSELOR TO ENSURE YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT YOU NEED TO DO.**

There are a number of other tasks related to your bill and financial aid which you need to accomplish at this time. Make sure you affirmed your enrollment for the semester. You should also very carefully examine your student bill to

make sure you understand everything on it. Pay particular attention to Easy Money, alumni fee and meal plan status. All of these charges can impact a potential refund. Being aware of the amount of your refund will help you plan for personal expenses for the spring term. You should decide if you really need the refund. Using all or part of the money to pay down your loans is always a wise idea.

If you are ready to graduate this term make sure you are aware of your loan repayment obligations and options. Make sure you complete the applicable loan exit counseling processes. Don't forget to talk with your counselor about graduate school financial options as well as the tuition waiver. Many of you will be or are contemplating working part time. Your first priority should always be your studies.

Ask yourself if you really need that extra money. Always remember that the EOP family will always be here for you and ready to talk with you about these issues. You must show proof to your counselor by 2/28/16 that you filed your FAFSA. Failure to do so will result in your EOP check being blocked. It is imperative that you complete your financial aid renewal process ASAP in order to receive all the financial aid to which you are entitled. Some students are in danger of losing their SEOG if their renewal process is not completed on time.



FINACIAL AID

2016/17 EOP Checklist for Financial Aid

Below are the forms you will need to provide to the EOP Office for the 2016/17 academic year.

- _____ 1. Students are required to use a Federal Student Aid Identification Number (FSA ID) and password which is obtained when you log into www.fafsa.gov If a parent needs to sign the FAFSA online, they too must obtain a FSA ID.
- _____ 2. Proof of filing your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) must be submitted to the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) Office by February 28, 2016. Proof of filing your FAFSA may consist of one of the following:
 - A copy of your confirmation page, which you would print after you have submitted your FAFSA electronically.
 - A copy of the FAFSA on the Web signature page with the student and parent signature, (if required).
 - A copy of the Student Aid Report that is sent to you electronically, approximately 48 hours after the online submission of the FAFSA application has been completed.

The Financial Aid Office encourages all FAFSA filing to be done electronically at www.fafsa.gov. **Please note:** We encourage both student and parent to sign electronically by using a FSA ID, which should be obtained before beginning the FAFSA application. We also encourage the use of the IRS Data Retrieval Process. Utilizing this process may reduce the number of verification documents requested. You must wait at least two weeks after completing your taxes before you can use the IRS Data Retrieval.

Please be aware that if a dependency override was done, you may complete your FAFSA online. You will need to check the box on the FAFSA verifying you are unable to provide parental information. You must also complete the Dependency Override Update Form, I12, which you can obtain from the Financial Aid Office or at www.brockport.edu/finaid/forms_center.

- _____ 3. Federal tax returns should be filed at least two weeks prior to filing the FAFSA if at all possible. This will allow you to use the IRS Data Retrieval Process to complete the financial portions of the FAFSA by indicating “yes” when prompted. However, you should use estimated data on the FAFSA and file before the FAFSA deadline, April 1st, if your taxes will not be filed by this time. You can always make a correction to your FAFSA to use the IRS Data Retrieval once you and your parent(s) taxes are filed.
- _____ 4. You will be able to complete the **Express TAP Application (ETA)** online immediately after completing the FAFSA on the web by clicking the link on the FAFSA website. If you do not file electronically or you forget to complete the application online, Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) will send you an e-mail or postcard notifying you to complete the TAP application online. In order to be eligible for TAP, you must be a NYS resident and enrolled full-time status.
- _____ 5. Other documents may be requested by the Financial Aid Office once the office has received your FAFSA information. Federal Tax Transcripts and W2 forms may be requested of you and/or your parents to verify income information on the FAFSA, or you are selected for verification.

Note: EOP checks will **NOT** be given to you unless your financial aid file is completed.

CAREER CORNER

CHECK OUT THE UPCOMING EVENTS!

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mock Career Fair noon - 2 pm Seymour College Union Fireside Lounge the following services will be offered: Resume critique, Communication observations, and Career Fair tips.

Thursday February 25, 2016

ESL Workshop "Deconstructing an Interview" Seymour Union room 119, 2-3 pm

Friday, February 26, 2016

Careers in Computing 11 am - 1 pm

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Jobs & Internships Fair noon - 4 pm Tuttle North SERC Attend the 2016 College at Brockport Jobs and Internships Fair!

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Teacher Recruitment Day SERC

For more information regarding any of these events you may contact,
Latasha Craig, Senior Counselor or **Lisa Jones, Graduate Counselor**

EOP Nursing Support Group Spring 2016!!!

IF YOU ARE A NURSING MAJOR OR INTENT, PLACE THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!

Students even had some hands on learning experiences with the various simulation patients! Meetings for the spring 2016 academic semester will be on the second and fourth Fridays of every month, **1/29, 2/12, 2/26, 3/25, 4/8, 4/22, 5/6, in Lathrop Hall room 206, from 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm!!!** As a reminder, attendance at the **EOP Nursing Support Group Meetings are MANDATORY**, and we are looking for **EVERYONE** to be at future meetings to continue building a solid support group and relationship with the faculty of the Nursing Department. Refreshments, as always, refreshments will be provided. Looking forward to seeing you all there...

~Debra A. Joseph-McEwen, Nursing Support Group Coordinator

EOP WRITING WORKSHOPS

Do you need **help** with improving your writing skills and technique? Having a little **difficulty** formulating an effective thesis statement or structuring or organizing your writing? **EOP Writing Workshops** are designed to assist you in acquiring the essential writings skills to help you be successful across subject content areas and beyond the classroom setting!

When: Mondays and Wednesdays 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm
(Cooper Hall, Room C-25A)

&

Thursdays 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
(Rakov, EOP Conference Room)

For more information please contact
Debra Joseph-McEwen, EOP Academic Coordinator
at djosephm@brockport.edu or 585-395-5411



CAREER SPOTLIGHT

Kevon Hill, Senior, Exercise Science major



Dedication, consistency, and drive! These are just a few characteristics that make a great coach. The EOP family is proud to acknowledge Kevon Hill who earned the position as head coach for the Brockport High School Blue Devils Junior Varsity Basketball team. Kevon found this opportunity very rewarding and right in line with his career goals to one day be a physical education teacher and coach high school basketball.

Throughout this experience, Kevon learned a lot about what coaching involves, time commitments, networking, and leading. He was also able to develop new coaching skills and strategies while at the same time delivering on setting positive examples for youth. Kevon is currently in his senior year at The College at Brockport and majoring in exercise science. Through this experience, Kevon has stated that he has learned patience and that it was an interesting opportunity based on his own age and having to work with teenagers.

He took the opportunity to not only coach them but to be someone they could look up to by demonstrating what could be accomplished if they work hard, stay focused and make good decisions. Most of all he is happy to be pursuing his career goals and doing what he loves, coaching basketball!

The College at Brockport
Educational Opportunity Program
350 New Campus Drive
Brockport, NY 14420

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Call

585.395.2547



Click.

www.brockport.edu/eop



Visit.

**Rakov Building,
Ground Floor**

**The Educational Opportunity Program
presents its**

**37th Annual
Honors & Recognition Banquet**



**Saturday April 16th, 2016
Seymour College Union
Ballroom**

6:00 pm– 9:00 pm