



# AIMS TIMES

## DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

Greetings AIMS Family!!!

Happy Valentine Day, Presidents Day and Black History Month to you all!!! That was a mouth full!!!! J I pray that each of you have a wonderful month full of love, education and appreciation of what you have.

I want to encourage each of you to participate in many of the wonderful programs going on in your community and at your school this month in observation of each of the events I listed. Your life will be enriched by your

participation.

Make sure to check out the calendar for all upcoming events. We want to make sure that you do not miss out on any opportunity!

Seniors...you should be busy filling out local, state and national scholarship applications...if you are not...then get BUSY!!!! Take advantage of each opportunity that you can!

I look forward to seeing some of you at our upcoming TRIO celebration on campus and others at the TRIO event at Eastern

Kentucky University!  
Take care!!

*Doris Clark-Sarr, Ph.D.*



## MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

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### Special points of interest:

- ☺ Math + Science = Great Careers pg. 3
- ☺ Helping Your Student Choose a Career pg. 5
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## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!

TASHANA BEASLEY  
BROOKE DEBRAKINS  
CARLOS EASLEY  
CODY EASLEY  
KEYVA GARDNER  
SAMYRA GUERIN

SANJUANA REYES  
LA'QUISHA SMITH  
JAYBREON WEATHERSPOON  
AARON WILLIAMS  
KYLIRA WILLIAMS

## COORDINATOR'S CORNER—AIMS I

Hello AIMS Family!

The year continues to fly by and with each month we get closer to the AIMS Summer Component! This past month our staff spent several weeks interviewing several candidates to serve as instructors and residential staff for the summer. The next step in our process will be to decide the perfect team for you, our students!

I have had the opportunity to meet and visit with several of you at your schools recently, and have been very pleased to introduce you to the newest addition to services provided by our program. College Greenlight is a great tool that is designed to assist us in the areas of FAFSA Completion, Scholarship Application, and most importantly, Admissions Application

and College Research. Evan and I will be enrolling all current as well as new participants in this great online resource. Counselors, if you are interested in using this service with your high school students, Evan and I can provide you information that will allow you to do so.

Seniors, it's crunch time! If I do not have your FAFSA Confirmations for both Summer 2015 and Fall 2015, Acceptance Letter to MSU for the Summer 2015 Term, and Acceptance Letters for other schools applied for, you will not be able to attend the Summer Program. This is a big step in your life and we have to make sure everything is ready and in place for you to participate!

If I haven't seen you yet, I will be

visiting your schools soon! Please mail us all requested information, including your Summer Confirmation form. Please do not hesitate to call or ask for help because we are here for you!

Also, those of you who are applying to participate in the program, our next application deadline is March 15, 2015! I am so excited for all of our new AIMS participants! We look forward to serving you and your families throughout your high school experience. Remember, keep your grades up and soar into the future!

Sincerely,

*Stephen D. Keene*

## COORDINATOR'S CORNER—AIMS II

Hey ya'll!

2015 is off to a great start here at AIMS. The planning stage for the Summer 2015 program is in full swing. We have conducted several interviews over the past few weeks and we are excited about the talent and dedication level present among the candidates for Instructors and Residential Advisors. I can't wait for summer!

I hope your new year is off to a great start, too. Stephen and I are visiting our respective schools to spread the good news of AIMS and to meet with you that know about it firsthand. We will be asking how you are doing and will do

our best to bridge any gaps you may be having academically or otherwise. That's what we do – be honest about any issues you may be having and we will get to work on them. That's precisely why we are here.

We are very excited about having two Scholar's Bowl teams in this year's Academic Competition during Kentucky TRiO Day at Eastern Kentucky University. I feel a victory coming on! This is something we participate in annually, so if you didn't get the opportunity this year, keep it in mind for next year.

As always, let us know how we can help.

Blessings,

*Evan O'Neal*

# CAREERS: GO FIGURE: MATH + SCIENCE = GREAT CAREERS

Looking for a job that is interesting and rewarding? How about something with strong growth that pays well and provides a secure life?

Maybe something in healthcare, engineering or IT? Well, we've got the jobs for you and they're all built on a solid foundation of math and science.

Advances in medicine and science improve our health and help us to understand the world around us. From balancing a household budget to preparing your taxes to following a recipe, math and science touch every part of our lives. Today, we rely on math and science in ways we could not imagine 30 years ago.

Innovations in technology help us communicate across the globe with ease through satellites, the Internet and cell phones. Every day they also help us to work better and conduct our daily lives. And yet fewer students are choosing to learn the basics of algebra or calculus, and fewer are digging into the mysteries of physics, biology and chemistry that explain the principles our modern world is built on. Why is this?

## **What is STEM?**

STEM is short for "Science, Technology, Engineering and Math." There are initiatives underway all over the country aimed at securing America's leadership in science technology, engineering and mathematics fields and identifying promising strategies for strengthening the educational pipeline that leads to STEM careers.

A solid foundation in math and science teaches students the problem-solving and analytical skills that are so valuable to success in any career.

And these are critical skills that students will use daily in their adult lives, whether they're assessing the terms of a home loan, making healthcare decisions or negotiating the terms of a car lease. Math teaches students how to solve problems creatively and develop critical-thinking skills. Science is all about studying, finding out, and making

sense of the "hows," "whats" and "whys" of the world we live in.

## **STEM grows jobs**

A strong background in math and science also opens doors to higher paying jobs and greater opportunities over a lifetime.

Jobs requiring STEM skills are expected to grow to 65 percent of the market, while unskilled, low-end wage jobs should shrink to just 15 percent. Estimates indicate that up to 75 percent of the existing workforce will require significant job retraining over the next five years, emphasizing STEM skills. Nationwide, the number of jobs requiring STEM training is growing five times faster than other occupation

A 2005 U.S. Chamber of Commerce report "Tapping America's Potential: The Education for Innovation Initiative," summed up why STEM is so important: "For most of the 20th century, the American education system provided a substantial part of the talent and proficiency needed to sustain and improve our way of life. Today, however, as the U.S. economy becomes even more reliant on workers with greater knowledge and technological expertise, the domestic supply of qualified workers is not keeping up with the skill demands."

## **Five Ways PTC Prepares You for a Career in Math and Science**

### **1. Advanced Manufacturing careers are on the rise.**

Piedmont Technical College offers training in the skill sets that our region's expanding advanced manufacturing sector needs, like [Mechatronics Technology](#), [Machine Tool and CNC](#), Metrology and more. Beginning in Fall 2014, the college will be offering full Mechatronics programs in Laurens and Newberry counties. Interested students can begin taking their general education courses this Spring to get started.

### **2. Solid preparation for healthcare careers**

For those looking for a career that will benefit others, healthcare may be a great fit. You probably know that PTC offers a well-respected Nursing program, but did you know that you can get training in 15 other health care fields—from [Cardiovascular Technology](#) to [Human Services](#) and [Respiratory Care](#)—right here at PTC?

### **3. Engineering training in two or four years.**

For more than 40 years, our Engineering Technology programs have produced graduates whose skills and abilities have helped them obtain excellent jobs and pursue advanced degrees. The [Engineering Technology](#) Curricula at Piedmont Technical College offer options for students who want to enter the work force after just two years, and for those who wish to pursue a Bachelor's degree in either Engineering Technology Management, or pure Engineering.

### **4. Information Technology career options**

Today, computers have become indispensable parts of everyday life. This explosive growth has created a demand for skilled technicians to maintain networks, to support users in everyday computing tasks, to design, maintain and implement new systems and more. After two years in PTC's [Computer Technology](#) program, you could have a degree, a certification, and a good salary at a secure job.

### **5. Boost your math skills**

Lots of people had trouble with math in high school, but Piedmont Technical College offers plenty of options to help you get up to speed, including tutoring, and classes focused solely on improving your math skills.

In fact, the College Preparatory division at PTC has introduced a new method of teaching math, called the Emporium method, that is producing a success rate nearly twice that of the national average. And after a pilot launch, the program is being refined to produce higher rates of success.

*You are cordially invited to the*

# **TRiO Day**

*Reception*

Date: February 16, 2015

Time: 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Location: 248 Blackburn Science

For additional information please contact

Gail Woolridge at 270-809-5429

Or email [gwoolridge@murraystate.edu](mailto:gwoolridge@murraystate.edu)

Sponsored By:

Murray State University

Federal TRiO Programs:

AIMS I & II

McNair Scholar's Program

Student Support Services



## PARENTS' CORNER: HELPING YOUR STUDENT CHOOSE A CAREER

The path to an ideal career is not the same for everyone. For some, choosing a career is something that happens at a young age. For most, it is a careful decision that is made after doing some much needed research. You can help your student make this important decision by helping them do 3 things:

### 1. Identify their skills and interests:

In the words of the great philosopher Confucius, "Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life." On average, adults spend 2,000 hours a year at work. That is about 25% of our time over a life span. This is why choosing a career is so important. It is a great feeling to enjoy the work that you do and to be good at it! You can help your student identify a career by helping them to identify things they are good at and enjoy. For example, if you have a curious child that likes taking things apart to see how they work you may have a future physicist or engineer on your hands. If your child's artistic skills often impress you then they may be a good fit for an exciting career in design.

### 2. Explore careers and majors:

An ideal career should meet both your student's skills and interests. A skill is the ability

to do something well or an area of expertise. An interest is an activity or hobby your student enjoys. There are important things your student should consider when exploring careers such as job demand, salary, and room for growth. There are great tools your student can use to explore careers online. ACT's World of Work allows students to explore careers, their works tasks, requirements, salary, and college majors. My Next Move offers career assessments, the ability to search careers with keywords, and browse careers by industry.

### 3. Connect them to professionals & mentors:

Mentors can provide your student guidance and support when choosing a career. There are great professionals all around us that can answer your student's questions and offer encouragement. If your student aspires to be a doctor, ask your doctor where he went to college and how they chose their career path. If your student wants to be in business, introduce them to local entrepreneurs and hear their stories. There are also many community programs to help connect your student to professionals and mentors such as Big Brothers Big Sisters and 4-H.

Not every student chooses a career before entering college but it can serve as a

powerful guide in selecting the right college or university. It can also increase scholarship opportunities for your student. Support your child's healthy curiosities. It may lead them to their ideal career!

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY  
MONTH

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### A BADGETT PLAYHOUSE CONCERT!



## *Stephen Keene & Friends Present: A Gospel Showcase*

Sunday, February 22, 2015 2:00pm

A Black History Month Celebration which features gospel music! Stephen Keene will share his story of growing up and singing in the church and his spiritual journey alongside his mom, a minister of over 50 years, and also the music he grew up singing in churches. Special guests will include: First United Methodist Church of Murray, KY Early Light Praise Team, Ms. Angela Guyton, Ms. Katrina Lee, Ms. Tonya Shelton, Mr. Bill Minihan, and more!

Selections to include:  
Negro Spirituals  
Hymns  
Classic/Traditional  
Gospel  
Contemporary Gospel  
Some Original Music



# How Students Can Take Advantage of Campus Visits

One of the many ways we're rewarding students for doing work toward their college search during [Greenlight to College Month](#) is by encouraging them to take selfies at campus visits and enter into our raffles for \$100 Amazon gift cards. While the selfies can win your students money (and make great Instagram posts) the real benefit comes from the experience of the campus visit. Once your students have narrowed down their college lists, they can help make sure the school is as great an academic, financial and social fit as it seems on paper. Learning more about the campus layout, the surrounding community and interacting with the student body can offer unique insights for students.

Here's how to help students get the most out of their visits:

## Help Plan Ahead

Each school will have different offerings, so students should decide before they go what they are looking for in their campus visit. Do they want to explore the campus independently with their parents, or do they want to attend a special event put on by the school? Many campuses offer tours year-around, but checking in with the college's admissions department.

After you've helped your student decide where and when she or he plans to visit, make sure they head out prepared. Help them develop a list of questions for faculty, staff, admissions and financial aid officers that are specific and

can't be found by simply searching the college's website. Does the student know what area of study they're interested in? Are they interested in clubs, sports, and/or multicultural organizations? What is the school's student body like socially? What sort of career help is offered? Is this school a financial fit? These questions can serve as a guide when choosing what to see and who to talk to.

## During the Visit

While on the tour or attending the open house, make sure your student is ready to get the answers to their questions by asking the appropriate faculty member or school official. Have them take notes and use our **College Visit Worksheet** (available in the "Tools" section of your College Greenlight counselor account) to keep their thoughts organized—visiting a campus can be overwhelming! Many schools will also offer opportunities to eat on campus, attend a class and keeping track of all the different experiences will be helpful when making big decisions later.

After the official tour or other school-sponsored portion of the visit, encourage your student to take some time to explore on their own to get a "real feel" of the campus and community. Talking to current students about their experience at the college can be a fantastic asset—they'll offer a different perspective than a tour guide or admissions counselor. You'll also be able to find students' different cultur-

al affinity groups, and we recommend visiting college's multicultural office. Additionally, picking up a student newspaper and checking out bulletin boards can be another way students can learn more about issues and other goings on at the college.

Don't forget to document the visit! Have students take a selfie to remember their trip (and to enter into our [Greenlight to College Month](#) raffles!)

## Follow Up

After your students have completed their visits, help them compare colleges. If they've filled out a **College Visit Worksheet** for each school, use this tool as a jumping off point for discussions around their decision as they can get a side-by-side comparison on specific aspects they noted. Arrange follow up communication and encourage thank you letters to admissions counselors, faculty or staff who were helpful.

Have students that are unable to make it to a campus visit? Arrange a "virtual tour" by using information found on College Greenlight's College Search section to get a feel for the way different schools might fit academically, socially and financially. Our [College Search Scavenger Hunt Worksheet](#) is a fun way to keep track of the schools your students have "visited" and, like the campus selfies, their completion counts as an entry into the [Greenlight to College Month](#) raffles.

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UNIVERSITY**

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## SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

### February

Summer Staff Interviews  
TBD

9-13 43rd SAEOPP Annual  
Conference in Biloxi, MS

13 Blind Boys of Alabama Con-  
cert @ WKCTC

22 Stephen Keene & Friends  
Gospel Concert @ Badgett  
Playhouse

27-28 TRiO Day and Scholars  
Bowl @ EKU

### March

Summer Hire Offers—TBD

7 Bridge Workshop IV  
9:00am—1:00pm Room 251  
Blackburn Science Bldg

13 AIMS Application Deadline  
for Summer Component Con-  
sideration

16-20 MSU Spring Break

### April

18 AIMS Orientation  
9:00am— 1:00pm 251 Black-  
burn Science Bldg

### May

25-28 AIMS Summer Staff  
Retreat & Training at MSU &  
Eminence, MO

25 Bridge Move -In Day

26 Bridge Classes Begin

### June

5-6 Bridge Weekend

7 AIMS Move-In Day (9-11

grades)

8 9-11 Grade Classes Begin

10 AIMS Testing & Carnival

26 Closing Symposium

27-July 1 End of Summer  
Trip TBA