Continuing education opportunities many, varied

Courses for adults run the gamut, from English or GED to law, aerospace engineering

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Whether they want to earn a GED, improve management skills or discuss Alfred Hitchcock films, Lawrence adults have several ways to continue or resume their education.

Lawrence Public Schools’ Adult Learning Center, located in the Lawrence High School annex building, offers a basic education program for adults.

“The emphasis in adult basic education is on lifeskills and employability skills,” said Ange White, an educator at the center.

The center also provides GED preparation courses and English language classes for non-native speakers. All the courses are free.

The adult education and GED classes consist of three or four three-hour sessions, available in the morning, afternoon and evening. The next session runs from Aug. 22 to Oct. 4, and enrollment is Aug. 13-16. Potential students can come by the center, where they can take diagnostic tests to provide personalized instruction.

Enrollment for the next session of English language classes will be on those same days, as well as Aug. 20-23. The English classes run on a similar schedule, but for longer: from Aug. 29 to Dec. 19.

Adults can learn about sign language, woodworking and computer skills through Lawrence Parks and Recreation continuing education classes. The classes typically run from six to 12 weeks, with one session per week. The cost usually ranges from $60 to $80, said Jo Ellis, recreation programs supervisor.

People can register for fall Parks and Recreation classes starting July 29, when paper copies of the fall activity guide are released. The guide is already available online at lpard.org.

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THE LAWRENCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS Adult Learning Center, at 2017 Louisiana, helps adults finish their education requirements. Above, Instructor Bonnie Johnston, left, helps Chino Orji, center, and Brandon Davenport work on their English.

Lifelong learning can cover a lot of bases

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Kansas University’s continuing education department oversees a wide array of educational programs. Those available to Lawrence adults include independent study courses, professional development courses and self-enrichment programs.

Through independent study, adults can take undergraduate and graduate KU courses for credit, at normal tuition rates.

Some professional development courses update students on advances in fields such as law or aerospace engineering, and others train students’ more general professional skills, such as project management and conflict resolution.

“These are for people who are out in their careers and feel they need to update their skills or their knowledge,” said Jim Peters, marketing director for KU continuing education. The courses, usually one or two days, run from

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Continuing education sites throughout the area

Lawrence
- Lawrence Public Schools Adult Learning Center: 2017 Louisiana St., Lawrence High School annex building. (785) 832-5960.

Johnson County:

Leavenworth County
- Carnegie Arts Center, (913) 651-0765, www.leavenwortharts.org/
- Kansas City Kansas Community College, (913) 651-2111, www.kckcc.cc.ks.us/
- Leavenworth Riverfront Community Center, (913) 651-2132, www.lks.org/community_center.htm
- University of St. Marys, (913) 682-5151, www.stmary.edu

Wyandotte County
- Donnelly College, 608 N. 18th St., Kansas City, Kan., (913) 621-6070, www.donnelly.edu
- Kansas City Kansas Community College, 7250 State Ave., Kansas City, Kan. (913) 334-1100 www.kckcc.edu
- Keeler Women’s Center, 608 N. 18th St. Rm 706, Donnelly College, (913) 621-8749, www.mountosb.org/kwc/

Lifelong learning can cover many bases

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said people as young as 14 enrolled in the classes. “It’s really a general-interest, general population outreach,” he said.

Costs range from $25 for one class to $150 for an annual membership with unlimited classes. KU faculty and other experts teach the classes, most of which are located at the KU continuing education office, 1515 St. Andrews Dr. Some classes are in Topeka and Overland Park.

Other Lawrence organizations offering continuing education include the Lawrence Workforce Center, 2540 Iowa St., and Goodwill, 2200 W. 31st St. Both organizations offer job search and employment skills training.
Students to begin at KU

New Kansas University students including Eudora residents Jessica Bateson, Paul Bender, Travis Bland, Steven Brady, Elizabeth Bratschie, Ryan Funk, Amy Green, Kara Gulley, Erryn Kindle, Desiree Marmon, Jonathan Nelson, Tasha Oakes, Christina Pyle, Paige Schultz, Kyle Serimsher, Jessica Stewart, Cecilia Stumpff and Michael Whitten and their parents will be welcomed into the KU family at the Jayhawk Generations Welcome Picnic at 6:30 p.m. July 30 in Lawrence.

The KU Alumni Association and its Lawrence chapter will greet the next generation of Jayhawks at the Adams Alumni Center, 1266 Oread Ave. Area alumni, new students, students interested in learning more about KU and parents are invited to attend and enjoy complimentary food and beverages. Each new Jayhawk also will receive a free T-shirt.

Current KU students, alumni and university representatives will mix and mingle with students to answer questions and offer advice.

Alumni association representatives and guests planning to attend are: Sarah Blaney, assistant director for Kansas programs; Mike Davis, senior vice president for alumni programs; Jill Miller, director of Kansas City programs; and Heath Peterson, director for Kansas programs.

For more information or to make reservations, visit www.kualumni.org, call the KU Alumni Association at (800) 584-2957 or e-mail kualumni@kualumni.org.
Extra help available for kids who need it

Schools, agencies, even private businesses provide a wide range of tutoring services

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Schools, private businesses and nonprofit organizations all provide outside-the-classroom help and tutoring for Lawrence K-12 students, giving them and their parents a variety of places to turn.

Many elementary and junior high schools provide their own after-school tutoring and academic services, sometimes sponsored by local organizations, said Chris Squier, Lawrence Public Schools mental health services facilitator.

"Most of the buildings have some sort of academic assistance for kids," Squier said. She said each school’s program was a bit different.

The Lawrence Boys and Girls Club sponsors after-school academic programs at many Lawrence elementary schools and junior highs.

Janet Murphy, executive director of the Lawrence Boys and Girls Club, said the staff of the programs — which include teachers, volunteers from Kansas University and paid workers — work closely with students’ schools to know each student’s needs.

“We try to support what they’re doing during the school day,” Murphy said. “We try to make sure people are there to help them do that.”

Some Boys and Girls Club programs are located at the school buildings, while the club busses students at other schools to its office, 1520 Haskell Ave. Murphy said people can call the Club at (785) 841-6854 to find out where students should attend the program and to find out about enrollment.

The programs are enrolling right now for the upcoming school year. The program costs $10 per week, but Murphy said the club didn’t turn anyone away because they could not pay the fee.

Strategic Education Center, a local nonprofit organization, provides tutoring and summer school classes at 1245 New Hampshire St.

Rose Eiesland Foster, the center’s executive director, said most of the tutors are students from KU’s education school. The tutors, who must have grade point averages of a “B” or higher, work with students individually or in groups of up to three, Foster said.

“I think they look to the tutors as kind of mentors,” Foster said. "The tutors are great students, and modeling that behavior is really helpful.”

The center works with its students’ teachers and parents to determine each student’s needs. Tutors can help students with all subject areas.

Students must pay an annual $100 fee for tutoring at the center, though the amount can be reduced according to income. Charges for tutoring range from $15 to $30 per hour, depending on income.

To enroll, Foster said to call (785) 331-3236 or send an e-mail to strategic@sunflower.com.

Several private businesses also provide tutoring and assistance, for higher prices than nonprofit organizations.

Sylvan Learning Center, 4920 Legends Dr., offers tutoring for
Tutors often are 'mentors'

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students as young as 4 years old. All of the center’s tutors are state-certified teachers, and most of them teach in Lawrence Public Schools, said Kathleen McDavid, center director.

“That really sets us apart from other centers,” McDavid said.

Students at Sylvan take diagnostic tests to formulate individualized curriculums. The center enrolls and tests new students every week during the school year and the summer. Sylvan also offers a homework help program, where students up to college-age can receive help with completing assignments.

The tutoring and homework help programs both cost $25 to $46 per hour, depending on the student’s curriculum. Each family must pay a one-time $75 enrollment fee, and the tutoring program’s diagnostic test also requires a fee. Sylvan provides student loans.

McDavid said people should call the center at 842-6284 to enroll.

Kaplan Educational Services, 1000 Massachusetts St., also provides tutoring, but it concentrates on college admissions and ACT and SAT test preparation. Students take diagnostic tests to determine their study needs and evaluate their progress, and they work one-on-one with instructors.

Kaplan’s tutoring programs cost between $2,000 and $4,000 for 20 to 40 hours of instruction, and the center also sells test preparation materials. The center will provide a free practice ACT and SAT test, including instructor feedback, 1 p.m. at its Massachusetts Street location.

To register for the free test or to enroll in a tutoring course, people should call 1-800-KAP-TEST or go to www.kaptest.com.

“The tutors are great students, and modeling that behavior is really helpful.”

Rose Eiesland Foster
Executive director,
Strategic Education Center
FROM LEFT, Stephanie Meehan, Julie Avard, Micah Woods and Noriko Ambuco listen to a vocabulary lecture Thursday at Kaplan Educational Center, 1000 Massachusetts St., Lawrence. The center specializes in college admissions and ACT and SAT test preparation.
Music camp

Eudora Middle School student Hunter Trefz was one of more than 380 junior high and high school students from Kansas and 16 other states who attended one of four Midwestern Music Camps at Kansas University this summer. Trefz attended the Junior High Band and Orchestra Camp June 10 to 16.

KU's School of Fine Arts and Department of Music and Dance offer the camps. David Clemmer, director of athletic bands and assistant band director at KU, leads the camps.

The camp provided instrumental, vocal and keyboard students a variety of musical experiences, including opportunities to participate in full symphony orchestras, choirs, bands, jazz ensembles and music classes.
The Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas recently announced 128 new Sen. Robert J. Dole Public Service Scholars for the 2007-08 academic year. The recipients, all 2007 Kansas high school graduates, represent the largest class of Dole scholars since the program began in 2005. Funded by NASA, the scholarships are distributed among the state’s four congressional districts to ensure the broadest statewide participation.

Students from Eudora High School recognized were Charles Mersmann and Mary Cox, who both plan to attend Kansas State University; and Christina Pyle, who plans to attend Kansas University.

Recipients receive a $1,000 scholarship, renewable for three years, and commit to completing 100 hours of civic activities annually. Kansas high school seniors who have volunteered in community and public service in their communities and who have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale are eligible.

The new scholars were formally announced during a June luncheon meeting at the Dole Institute.
Zuna wins award

Nina Zuna, a Kansas University doctoral student in special education from Eudora, won the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Student Award in recognition of her research showing that parents of kindergartners with and without disabilities are more alike than different when it comes to how they view their relationships with their children’s teachers. Zuna won national and peer recognition. In addition, the KU Professionals for Disability recognized her with the 2007 Judy Tate Outstanding Doctoral Student Medallion Award.

Zuna will receive her degree in August.

Following graduation, she will be a research associate at KU’s Beach Center on Disability, a federally funded research and training center exploring the impact of public policy on families of children with disabilities.

For her dissertation, Zuna wanted to know whether disability alone influenced how pleased parents were with educators. Through her research, she found it did not make any difference. Most earlier studies in her field were limited to either parents of children with disabilities or parents of those without disabilities — but not both.

Zuna, who switched from a career in health care a few years ago to begin working with children with autism, is focused on improving quality of life and supportive networks for families of children with disabilities.
University honors program awards research grants to 28 undergraduates

Special to the Herald-Tribune

LAWRENCE, Kan. — A Fort Scott High School graduate is among 28 undergraduates at the University of Kansas working on research projects this summer funded with grants of about $1,200 from the University Honors Program.

Erin Lewis, a junior in mechanical engineering is researching "The Kinematic Effects of the Anterior Cruciate Ligament During Deep Knee Flexion for a Porcine Knee," under the guidance of Lorin Maletsky, associate professor of mechanical engineering. Lewis is the daughter of David Lewis, Fort Scott.

The students' research ranges from studies on sleep deprivation in America, cosmic rays and biodiversity, revolutionary hip-hop and black rhetoric, data analysis gathered from South Pole ice sheets, acoustics in spaces used for worship, drug discovery and synthesis, and the effects of text messaging on the ability to operate a vehicle safely.

"The Undergraduate Research Award competition is a testimony to KU’s longstanding commitment to provide undergraduates with a first-rate education. The one-on-one collaboration between these students and their mentors embodies learning in its purest form," said Mark Nesbitt-Daly, associate director of the honors program and co-chair of the University Honors Council Research Committee.

The awards program, now in its 50th year, supports original research by undergraduates from the Lawrence campus and are provided by special funds made available by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Office of the Vice Provost for Research and the Office of the Provost.

The University Honors Program provides enriched educational opportunities to KU’s most academically talented, motivated and promising students through honors courses, programs and tutorials. Stanley Lombardo, professor of classics, directs the program.

Members of the University Honors Council selected the students using criteria such as the quality of the proposal, the student’s academic record and ability to complete the proposed research project, the project’s potential contribution to knowledge and the educational value of the research to the student.

For more information on the University Honors Program, go to www.honors.ku.edu.
Bergquist recognized in Sigma Alpha Lambda

Sigma Alpha Lambda has announced that Toni Diane Bergquist of Holton recently became recognized as a member of Sigma Alpha Lambda, a National Leadership and Honors Organization at the University of Kansas. Sigma Alpha Lambda is a national organization dedicated to promoting and rewarding academic achievement and providing members with opportunities for community service, personal development, and lifelong professional fulfillment.
Anderson awarded two scholarships at KU

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Kansas honored 46 students with more than $53,000 in scholarships this spring and is planning a reception for the recipients to take place in the fall semester.

Rae Ann Anderson of Circleville received two English Faculty Memorial Scholarships. Anderson is the daughter of David and Sara Anderson. She is a junior studying psychology and religious studies.

The scholarships were available to outstanding freshmen, sophomores and juniors and were made possible by gifts to the KU Endowment from alumni and friends.
Student attends jazz workshop

More than 380 junior high and high school students from Kansas and 16 other states arrived at the University of Kansas this summer to attend one of four Midwestern Music Camps.

KU's School of Fine Arts and Department of Music and Dance offered the camps. David Clemmer, director of athletic bands and assistant band director at KU, lead the camps.

Heath Robertson of Holton High School attended the Jazz Workshop, which was held July 8-13.

KU's Midwestern Music Camp was created in 1935 by former band director Russell L. Wiley. Under Wiley's direction, the camp became the second largest and second oldest music camp in the United States. The camp was often visited by some of the world's most well-known conductors and artists, such as Andre Previn, Percy Grainger, Sir Vivian Dunn and Carmen Dragon.