

MIGRANT

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Kentucky Migrant Education Program

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Message from Heather Rhorer, KY MEP State Director

Thank you for attending the 2015 Annual Migrant Fall Academy and for everyone’s work to make it a success! There were over 150 attendees representing more than 40 districts across the state and in excess of 40 sessions offered. Some of the most popular sessions included Human Trafficking, Excel® 2013 for Dummies, and Roger Rosenthal’s Updates from DC. Your feedback is appreciated and will be used to plan for next year’s academy. Please let your regional coordinator or the KYMEP staff at KDE know if you would like to present at next year’s academy or have any suggestions for sessions. I hope that you have learned something new to improve your program, better serve our families and that you can share with others regarding the MEP. Stay tuned for more information about the 2016 Annual Migrant Fall Academy.

All Recruiter Updates – A Review from the Fall Academy

By: Christina Benassi, State ID&R Coordinator

The all-recruiter updates at this year’s Fall Academy were provided in small group settings to facilitate greater discussion. From these discussions, it was determined that two new types of comments need to be added to a Certificate of Eligibility (COE).

The first comment deals with prior history: If a family comes to your district looking for specific qualifying work and doesn’t find this work, the family may still qualify on section 4ci: Prior History. You would now document this by stating, “Worker has a prior history of work in Florida, June 5, 2014, picking oranges.” Remember you must state, when the worker found work, what type of work the worker was doing, and where was the worker when he found this work. If you have answered those three questions then you have accurately completed the comment.

The second comment deals with previous COE: In the past a recruiter would simply note in the comments section, “Children qualify off of a

previous COE. Previous COE stated that the worker will milk cows for six months.”

This type of comment is not acceptable since the recruiter is to record each family’s unique story at the time of the interview. Having said this, if the child has moved in with a foster family, that doesn’t know the family’s history or temporary comments, then a comment similar to above may be approved if it is stated that the children are living with foster family, or the foster parent signed the COE.

Otherwise, the family may qualify off a previous move, which is different than a previous COE. The family may not qualify on the move to your district, but the prior move to another district. We would call this, “Family qualifies off previous move.” This doesn’t need to be stated since we can tell in section three that the to and from locations are different than the current move recorded on the BIP and in section I of the COE.

Fall Academy 2015



1. (L-R) Back to from- Rob Russell, Ohio County Recruiter; Annette Dant, Ohio County Recruiter; Sherrill Tanner, Webster County Recruiter; Debbie Borland, Western Regional Recruiter; Ali Frailey, Webster County Recruiter/Tutor; Kevin Raney, Webster County Advocate; Cindy Sasser, Western Regional Coordinator; Sara Haney, Southern Regional Clerk; Karla Brasher, Western Regional Clerk. 2. Karla Brasher, Western Regional Clerk; and Sara Haney, Southern Regional Clerk. 3. Pavel Romero, Harrison County Recruiter; Heather Rhorer, State Migrant Director; Diane Kuta, Scott County Recruiter/Advocate. 4. Heather Rhorer, State Migrant Director providing Tom Hanley, ESCORT Assistant Director a gift from Kentucky before he retires in December. 5. Bill Thompson, Former Northeastern Regional Coordinator; Michael Hay, Southern Regional Coordinator. 6. Bobbi Mayes, Central Regional Clerk; Chris Clevenger, Eastern Regional Clerk; Nakia Jackson, Administrative Specialist III at the Kentucky Department of Education; Karla Brasher, Western Regional Clerk. 7. Christina Benassi, State ID&R Coordinator; Judith Littleton, Former Migrant State Director; Heather Rhorer, Migrant State Director. 8. (L-R) Karla Brasher, Western Regional Clerk; Cindy Sasser, Western Regional Coordinator; Jackie Roth, Northern Regional Coordinator; Milton Meza, Northern Regional Clerk; (front) Sara Haney, Southern Regional Clerk; Lupi Ginn, ESCORT Senior Recruiter; Laura Puente, Eastern Regional Recruiter; Elena Davis, Clark County recruiter; Pavel Romero, Harrison County Recruiter. 9. Christina Benassi, State ID&R Coordinator; Lili Sanchez, Madison County Recruiter; Daylin Casalis, Fayette County Recruiter; Sara Haney, Southern Regional Clerk. 10. Elena Davis, Clark County Recruiter; Danelle Kuta, former migrant tutor; Lupi Ginn, ESCORT Senior Recruiter. 11. Heather Rhorer, State Migrant Director; Diana Kuta, Scott County Recruiter. 12. Christina Benassi, State ID&R Coordinator; Bill Thompson, Former Northeastern Regional Coordinator.

Basic Interview Pattern

By: *Christina Benassi, State ID&R Coordinator*

The Basic Interview Pattern (BIP) has helped recruiters in Kentucky for several years. Recently in 2013 it was redesigned in an easier format. However, as time has gone on I have noticed some common errors.

First, the top portion of the BIP, regardless of whether the family moved for qualifying work or not, should represent the most current move. The reason for this is to show the reviewer what the family is currently doing at this moment. Occasionally we miss moves and try to qualify families on previous moves, when they could qualify on the most recent move. It helps the reviewer determine eligibility.

Notice that question 2 states, “When did you last move to find work?” instead of, “When did you last move?” The reason it was designed like this was to assist new recruiters with interviewing the family and asking the right questions. Typically more times than not, the family qualifies on this first move. However, there are circumstances when that is not the case.

Second, at a recent coordinators’ meeting it was determined that the specific work (question 4) would not be probed. The question reads, “What specific type of work were you looking for?” The issue is that some staff write tobacco work or farm work while others are specific and write stripping tobacco or feeding pigs. It can be difficult for a reviewer to get a clear understanding of what the family actually came here to do. On the flip side, while recruiting, since the BIP is completed first, the family may simply state that they came here for tobacco work and then on the Certificate of Eligibility (COE) the family is more specific. Even though specifics will not be questioned, if the BIP says construction or another non-qualifying job and you qualifying the family off this move, then it will be probed more directly.

Remember, the regional office has a wealth of knowledge and they are willing to assist you if you have any question. I am also available. Feel free to give one of us a call if you have any concerns. If you have ideas on changing the wording on the Basic Interview Pattern to make it easier to understand, we welcome your thoughts.

Meet the Eastern Regional Migrant Staff

Sheila Anderson – Regional Coordinator KEDC

I am the new Migrant Education Program Coordinator for the Eastern region of Kentucky. I have been with KEDC for three years. I have had previous experience with overseeing a variety of federal programs at the local district level and over 15 years of school district administrative background. I am looking forward to the opportunity to oversee the program for the Eastern Region. During my spare time I enjoy hiking, camping, and spending time with family and friends.

Brock Baber – Regional Advocate KEDC

I would like to first say that I am excited about my new opportunity to begin my career in Migrant Education. I have been a special education teacher for six years in the Bath County School District prior to taking the Regional Advocate Position at KEDC where I will cover the newly-aligned Eastern region of Kentucky. I have been married for six years to my high school sweetheart. We have a 5-year-old daughter who is my little princess. I attended the University of Kentucky and played baseball (pitcher) there from 2004-2008. I love making a positive difference in people’s lives and I am blessed to be part of new, energetic Migrant Staff.

Brenda Hernandez – State Recruiter KEDC

I am bilingual in Spanish and English. I earned an Associate Degree in Business Administration from Midway College. I am very close to completing my bachelor’s degree. Although my most recent work experience has been in the medical field, I have a very eclectic background that gives me a unique skill set that will be valuable during recruiting. I am a mother of two and reside in Lexington. I was raised in Puerto Rico and born to a Cuban father and Puerto

Rican mother.

However, I have lived in Kentucky for most of the past 18 years. I am very active in my community and love scouting, being outdoors, dancing, volunteering and spending time with my family.



Laura Puente – Regional Recruiter KEDC

My name is Laura Puente and I have worked with Migrant Education for 12 years. I was born in San Antonio, Texas, but have lived in Kentucky since 1993. I have been married for 12 years and have three children (one son, two daughters). I enjoy spending time with my family and traveling. I look forward to working with the Migrant Team at KEDC and help making the program a success.

Chris Clevenger –Regional Clerk KEDC

I have enjoyed working at KEDC for 10 years as administrative assistant in special education alongside a wonderful group of people. My past work in special education provides me with the skill set needed to serve special populations and I am thrilled to begin a new journey with Migrant Education. I have two girls with my husband. We enjoy our time together outdoors fishing and camping. On occasion we will take our dog, Xena, out with us for an adventure.

The 2015 National ID&R Forum

By: Christina Benassi, State ID&R Coordinator

A wonderful opportunity came to Kentucky on Oct. 6-8 Eastern Stream Consulting, Research and Training (ESCORT) hosted the National ID&R Forum at the Galt House in Louisville. Migrant staff from across the United States had the opportunity to experience our beautiful Commonwealth.

This year I attended several sessions with presenters from California and Georgia. One session I attended discussed how California used their out-of-state re-interview findings to shape their state trainings. They have a three-year model where all recruiters attend trainings for one day on collaboration and networking, migrant education program eligibility, the art and science of interviewing, making quality control work for you, and comments on COEs. They build on each of these topics annually. As Kentucky's ID&R coordinator, this may be a model that we could implement. Although, every state is different, learning the process and procedures from other states provides for ideas and best practices.

Also at the forum was the first annual Recruiter Bowl. This was an exciting opportunity for fellow recruiters to cheer on their team as they undergo a completion similar to the game show, Family Feud. Participants were divided into four teams: red, blue, yellow and green. The blue team was able to shine and win the victory. This format was another great opportunity to meet new people and provide a fun and exciting way to learn new information.

As always, the National ID&R Forum gave everyone time to get to know each other. I highly encourage anyone that has not attended national conference to plan to attend one in the near future. It builds collaboration among states and provides that unique avenue for new learning.



1. Christina Benassi, State ID&R Coordinator; Brenda Hernandez, Eastern Regional Recruiter; Brock Baber, Eastern Regional Advocate 2. Daylin Casalis, Fayette County Recruiter/Advocate; Teresa Cox, Missouri Recruiter; Betty Perkins, Southern Regional Recruiter. 3. Debbie Young, Montgomery County Advocate; Christina Benassi, State ID&R Coordinator; Lindsey Henderson, Montgomery County Recruiter. 4. Karla Brasher, Western Regional Clerk, Sara Haney, Southern Regional Clerk. 5. Pavel Romero, Harrison County Recruiter/Advocate; Laura Puente, Eastern Regional Recruiter; Michael Skuczas, Harrison County Recruiter/Advocate; Karla Brasher, Western Regional Clerk. 6. Heather Rhorer, Migrant State Director. 7. Jorge Echegaray, ESCORT Education Specialist; Lupi Ginn, ESCORT Senior Recruiter; Sara Haney, Southern Regional Clerk; Karla Brasher, Western Regional Clerk. 8. Maria Diaz-Ramos, Madison County Migrant Recruiter; Ali Frailey, Webster County Migrant Recruiter. 9. Tom Hanley, ESCORT Assistant Director. 10. Brock Baber, Eastern Regional Advocate; Sheila Anderson, Eastern Regional Coordinator; Chris Clevenger, Eastern Regional Clerk. 11. Brenda Hernandez, Eastern Regional Recruiter; Christina Benassi, State ID&R Coordinator; Sheila Anderson, Eastern Regional Recruiter. 12. Karla Brasher, Western Regional Recruiter; Sara Haney, Southern Regional Recruiter; Christina Benassi, State ID&R Coordinator. 13. Betty Perkins, Southern Regional Recruiter; Pedro Santiago, Northern Regional Recruiter; Daylin Casalis, Fayette County Recruiter; Teresa Cox, Missouri Recruiter.

Bourbon County Migrant Students' Summer Experiences

By Jill McKenzie, Public Relations, Bourbon County Schools

High school students who are part of the Bourbon County Migrant Education Program attended a camp at University of Kentucky this past summer. Camp was Monday through Thursday and was offered for our regional migrant students. They were paired with other students from all over the state. The students shared their favorite moments of the week at the Bourbon County Board Meeting in August. Their experiences included watching a live gall bladder surgery, touring UK hospital's trauma unit, touring the helipad, and hearing from numerous speakers from a variety of professions. Students spoke of future endeavors including becoming a medical interpreter, joining the Marines, and attending the Craft Academy in Morehead, Kentucky. Assisting with the presentation was Krystal Clark, EL Teacher/Migrant Tutor.



Rainbows and Turtles: A Day in Webster County

By Judy Littleton, Former Migrant State Director

Sebree Elementary School is located in northern Webster County in the small community of Sebree. Located behind the school, you will find the Webster County Migrant Education office and the hub of summer school activities.

On June 22, I had the great privilege of visiting the Webster County summer program for elementary-aged students. When I arrived at Sebree that morning, I joined in with the students as they were stretching and bending, getting their muscles warmed up after breakfast. Once they were all warmed up and ready to start the day, they each introduced themselves to me. One of the goals of the summer programming is to stress the importance of being

polite and using the proper format when talking with adults. The staff interweaves this in all the activities and I was very impressed with the students as they were demonstrating this skill. If they remember nothing else from this summer, this skill will last them a lifetime.

After warm up and introductions, the staff led the students outside. The school has a vegetable patch where some of the broccoli was ready. Several students were able to take home a bunch.

After picking the broccoli, the staff gathered all and began discussing the differences between color and no color. The staff began the lesson with a demonstration using a couple

of students wearing different colored shirts. They asked which was the most colorful. After the responses, the students were divided into three groups and participated in three different stations to learn more about color and light and to see if their predictions were correct.

The students also were studying animals. They had completed lessons on mammals, birds, amphibians and fish. All that was left was reptiles. Characteristics of reptiles were discussed and written; however, the highlight for the students was interacting with turtles, including one very large turtle.

All-in-all, a very busy day. But it was a great day.

Quiet Trails: Hiking with Harrison County Students

By Judy Littleton, Former Migrant State Director



Quiet Trails State Nature Preserve lies in northeastern Harrison County. A two-mile trail circles the preserve capping at the Licking River. It is the place that the Harrison County migrant middle school students spent a day learning more about the landscape and the environmental opportunities that this preserve offers.

However, my visit with the Harrison County migrant summer program did not begin at the preserve. We began at the high school. Beth Tucker, the summer school instructor, first had the student build hills using sand. She discussed the steepness of the sides of the students' hills. She transferred this to a topographically map of the nature preserve that they would be visiting. The students looked at the lines on the map to determine the steepest part of the trail. The goal was to determine where to begin the hike, wanting to do the steepest part early in the morning. The students decided to begin with the Deep Hollow Trail (to the Licking River) and return on the

See **Quiet Trails** on page 6

Challenger Trail.

So off we set for the trails. Driving about 15 minutes to the community of Sunrise, we arrived at the preserve where we were met by our guide. On the hike down to the Licking River, the guide stopped several times to show the students indigenous flora as well as several plants that had been transplanted from other areas of the world. He also showed the multiple variety of mushrooms that were growing, mostly due to the moist weather during the spring. At the river, we stopped for lunch and then made our trek back up the hill.

It was a great visit and a great lesson. I did not know that this preserve was so close. To learn more about the preserve, visit the [Quiet Trails](#) website.

“Always the teacher” Migrant program director’s focus is on helping students

Reprinted with permission from The Lebanon Enterprise.

By Stephen Lega

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When Elma Simpson was growing up the Philippines, she dreamed of growing up and becoming a nurse.

Instead, she has settled into a career in another country in another field entirely. Simpson, 40, heads the migrant education program for Marion County Public Schools.

“I’m the director, advocate-slash-teacher,” she said. “I have a lot of roles.”

While Simpson wanted to be a nurse until she graduated from high school, she admitted that there were signs in her childhood that she had the spirit of an educator. She recalled playing school with her friends and relatives.

“When I was growing up in elementary school, we’d have a clubhouse, and they’d all be my students ... I’d always be the teacher,” Simpson said.

After high school, she went to college where she completed a degree in mathematics along with getting certified to teach at the age of 20. She met her husband, Tim, shortly thereafter. She said her cousin introduced him to her, and about six months later she moved to the United States, specifically to Marion County. In October, they will celebrate their 20th anniversary.

That’s not to say that she didn’t have some trouble adjusting at first.

The national language in the Philippines is Tagalog, although she said English is considered the second national language (and there are many Filipinos who speak Spanish as well). Schools in the Philippines are bilingual with some classes in Tagalog and others in English, according to



Photo by Stephen Lega

Elma Simpson is the migrant teacher and advocate for Marion County Public Schools.

Simpson.

Despite that, she believes she learned British English, which, in addition to native Kentucky accents, made it hard to understand what people were saying at first. But she stuck it out and about 15 years ago, she completed the naturalization process and became a U.S. citizen.

“To me, this is my home now,” Simpson said. “When I go to visit my parents I feel like I’m just a visitor.”

Before she was hired in the school district, Simpson worked at Country Place Greenhouse in Springfield. When she started teaching it was as a substitute teacher, and she continued to work part-time at Country Place. She added that she feels like the owner, Bernie Bourbeau, and the employees at Country Place are still like her family.

“I was working two or three days a week here [MCPS] and then I was working at Country Place, too,” she said.

Of course, working in an American public school system took some adjustments as well, according to Simpson.

“I got culture shock. I went home and I cried, and I told myself, ‘I don’t think I can teach here,’” she said.

But again, she stuck it out, and she later received a job offer to work as the migrant educator for the district.

“I was really lucky that my degree in the Philippines was equivalent to a degree over here,” Simpson said.

When she started, Marion County’s migrant program was small enough that it was part of a consortium with neighboring districts, and her car

served as her office. Today, it's a stand-alone program that serves students in all seven schools within Marion County Public Schools before, during and after school.

And she has an office/classroom in the 21st Century Community Learning Center.

"In the migrant program, we focus on reading and math, but we also work with them in other areas," Simpson said.

The program serves students who have moved to Marion County from another district, another state or another country. To be eligible, the student's parents must have moved to Marion County to work in agriculture, Simpson explained.

While the focus of the program is on assisting the students, Simpson said they do outreach to the parents as well, including three meetings of a parental advisory board each year. She added that most of the parents of the students attend those meetings.

"The key is good communication and building that good relationship with them," Simpson said. "That makes a big difference."

The meetings aren't just about sharing information. They are also about learning from the parents what can be done to better serve their children. Simpson also said she encourages the parents and the students to get involved in extracurricular activities and to participate in school and community events, such as the district's reading celebration.

But at its core, Simpson's job is about teaching, and that is her favorite part of her work.

"I just love to see them learn," she said.

Welcome our newest recruiters!!

Gloria Rivera, Warren County

Susana Rivas, Warren County

Jeanetta Mohlke-Hill, Woodford County

Gabriella Martinez, Daviess County

Reda Reinhart, Todd County

Maria C. Claunch, Danville Independent

Christopher Sexton, Glasgow Independent

Pedro Santiago, Northern Region

Upcoming Dates

November 9-10, 2015, Title 1 Conference, Pike County

April 24-27, 2016, NASDME, San Diego, California