MOCAN
MISSOURI COLLEGE & CAREER ATTAINMENT NETWORK

AUGUST 2026

New + Improved My Scholarship Central Launches August 31st!

MY SCHOLARSHIP CENTRAL

We heard you! With input from students, advisors, and scholarship providers, we've developed a new My Scholarship Central that is simpler and easier to use! The new My Scholarship Central site is built on the Survey Monkey Apply platform, meaning it's a brand new interface. We know you're going to love it!

Highlights of the new My Scholarship Central:

- Easier login process
- A simpler student eligibility profile
- Re-usable student responses across scholarship applications

Learn more about the new site!

- Read more about it

- Attend a college and career advisor info session:

Wed., Sept 2 | 9 AM
Virtual My Scholarship Central Info Session
Register

Tues., Sept 29 | 8 AM
In Person Counselor Breakfast in St. Louis
Connect with colleagues, ask questions, and get new printed materials.
Register

Additional events will be announced soon at mocollegecareer.org/events





Earn a Financial Aid Specialist Credential through MOCAN!

MOCAN is excited to offer a new professional development opportunity this year –the MOCAN Financial Aid Specialist credential!

Demonstrate that you have expertise in financial aid and FAFSA advising by attending all 6 virtual PDI workshops with uAspire and at least 1 in-person workshop with MASFAP over the course of the school year.

Participation is free to anyone who advises students on financial aid and FAFSA, but 100% attendance is required.

- Learn more about the credential
- Ready to sign up? Register here. You must also register for individual workshops – see list below.

Questions? Contact Kaitlyn Venta

Back to School, Back to Learning!

MOCAN MISSOURI COLLEGE & CAREER ATTAINMENT NETWORK
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

We're excited to host another year of Professional Development Institute (PDI) workshops for college and career advisors!

All workshops are free to attend. Mix of virtual and in person. Register at the links below or visit mocollegecareer.org/events

Wed., Sept 2 | 9-10 AM | Virtual
My Scholarship Central Intro Webinar
We're launching a new and improved My Scholarship Central this year! Join us to learn more about our new platform!
Register

Fri., Sept 18 | 9-10:30 AM | Virtual
Introduction to Financial Aid
Learn about the many types of financial aid and strategies for supporting high school seniors. With uAspire.
Register

Fri., Nov. 6 | 9-10 AM | Virtual
Missouri State Aid and Workforce Pell Updates
Learn the latest updates on Missouri's student aid programs including the new Workforce Pell program from Missouri Dept. of Higher Education and Workforce Development.
Register

FAFSA Completion Workshops

The FAFSA opens October 1st! Make sure you're ready with a two-part workshop with our colleagues at uAspire! Register for each workshop separately.

Fri., Sept 25 | 9-10 AM | Virtual
FAFSA Completion Part 1
Walk-through the student section of the FAFSA in this deep dive workshop with uAspire.
Register

Fri, Oct 2 | 9-10 AM | Virtual
FAFSA Completion Part 2
Walk-through the parent section of the FAFSA with uAspire.
Register

In-Person Financial Aid Workshops Across the State!

MOCAN is again partnering with the Missouri Association for Student Financial Aid Personnel (MASFAP) and Missouri Scholarship & Loan Foundation to host in-person High School Counselor Financial Aid workshops in locations across the state!

All new content this year! Learn about:

- Latest FAFSA updates and how to handle tricky situations
- Federal policy updates and how to advise families about new regulations
- How your colleagues are approaching challenging college affordability scenarios.

Locations:

- Columbia: Sept 21
- Cape Girardeau: Sept 22
- Kansas City: Sept 22
- Springfield: Sept 23
- Rolla: Sept 29
- Poplar Bluff: Oct 1
- Trenton: Oct 1
- Joplin: Oct 8
- St. Louis: Oct 12
- Kirksville: Oct 13
- Sedalia: Oct 14
- St. Joseph: Oct 16

Register for MASFAP in-person workshops

AFFORDABILITY

New Resources You Can Use with Students and Parents!

We know talking about paying for college can be one of the hardest conversations advisors have with families so MOCAN and rootEd Missouri have created a set of turn-key resources to help busy college and career advisors!

The Bridging the Affordability Gap resources help you:

- Respond to student and parent questions about college costs
- Address common misconceptions about postsecondary education
- Support developing an affordability plan aligned with career aspirations

The messaging campaign includes easy-to-use communications resources you can copy, paste, present, and post! Use as created, or customize to your needs, including:

- Presentation slide deck on college affordability, FAFSA, and financial aid planning you can use at parent nights and financial aid events.
- An informational handout and financial aid timeline to share with families
- Communications toolkit with e-mail text and social media posts (with graphics!) along with a schedule of what to post when.

All materials are free to use.

Access via the button below and enter the passcode **payingforcollege**

Bridging the Affordability Gap Resources

COMPLETION

KCCAN Completion Project Launches!



MOCAN officially launched the new, three-year KCCAN Completion Project with its first Training Institute this month.

A partnership between MOCAN, Metropolitan Community College (MCC), Northwest Missouri State University, and the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC), the Completion Project is designed to increase persistence and graduation for Kansas City Public Schools (KCPS) students attending the three institutions.

With 27 participants across the partners, the Institute provided an opportunity for institutional teams to connect, align project goals, and begin building a shared

vision for improving student outcomes.

The key session of the Institute was a workshop on High-Impact Practices (HIPs) conducted by **Dr. Tia McNair,** Senior Consultant with SOVA Higher Education Consulting. Dr. McNair shared evidence-based strategies that support student engagement, persistence, and completion, providing a foundation for the collaborative work ahead.

Over the coming months, partners will focus on evaluation, institutional engagement, baseline data collection, and the development of their institutional plans designed to increase student persistence and completion.

STLCC State of St. Louis Workforce



MOCAN Program Manager for Completion **Wendell Stapleton** served as a panelist on an employee panel at St. Louis Community College's 2026 State of the St. Louis Workforce event, providing his insights from a Gen Z perspective.

Boniface Scholars College Prep Day





MOCAN supported St. Louis area students transitioning to college with the first Boniface Scholars College Prep Day. This one-day experience equipped students with tools, tips, and skills to thrive during their undergraduate career and beyond. Scholars participated in sessions on Financial Wellness, Mental Wellness, Personal Branding, and Interviewing Skills.

Part of the Boniface Scholars Postsecondary Success Initiative, Prep Day served as an intentional "hand off" from the precollegiate programs our Scholars have participated in during high school to our Institutional Support teams on our partner campuses.

Completion Team Recognized by Titus 2 Foundation



Congratulations to MOCAN's Senior Strategy Director for Completion **Trent Ball** and Program Manager for Completion **Wendell Stapleton** who were recognized with Education Impact Awards from the Titus 2 Foundation! The Titus 2 Foundation is a nonprofit organization created to help students from non-traditional families navigate their high school careers and make informed decisions regarding their postsecondary options.

KCCAN

Welcome, Tremesha!



MOCAN is pleased to welcome **Tremesha Robinson** as the Advising Director for KCCAN! Tremesha joins us from Kansas State College and Career where she led the work as the Associate Director of Statewide Advising. Her impressive background includes advising with Kansas State College Advising Corps (KSCAC) as an in-school and hybrid advisor. **Welcome, Tremesha!**

Curbing Summer Melt

The KCCAN Summer College & Career Center assisted 52 students in June and July with in-person and virtual advising to keep students on track with college and career goals. The most requested help was around financial aid, FAFSA, and scholarships.

We're excited to build on the momentum of the pilot program in Summer 2027! Thanks to our partners at KCPS and KC Public Library!

Back to School for the KCCAN Advising Team!







The KCCAN Advising Team has wrapped up their extensive summer training! Highlights included analyzing national and statewide FAFSA data trends with our partners at NCAN, a day-long institute with our colleagues at Kansas State College and Career, learning about an asset-based approach to advising students, and goal setting with our partners at KCPS and UnlockED's Kimberly Hanauer.

KCCAN Advisors are ready to welcome students and begin advising the class of 2027!



Welcome, Lila!



MOCAN is excited to welcome **Lila Irby** to our team as Communications Specialist! You are already familiar with Lila's work as the innovative designer of our
e-newsletter and social media graphics. Lila is a recent graduate of the University of Missouri-St. Louis with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Graphic Design. She has internship experience with Arcturis, UMSL and Purina Checkmark.

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SUPPORT OUR WORK!

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