

Personal qualities determine your success

BY PAULINE CAMPBELL

Whether you are planning on continuing your education or scouting for a job there are personal qualities that are looked for. These qualities vary from job to job and college, but anyone planning for the future should be aware of what it takes to be successful.

Students should be motivated, have a desire to succeed, and be hard working, according to Brad Tate, Assistance Director for Lindsey Wilson College.

Mr. Tate also believes a successful student will be ambitious in and out of the classroom.

"Without them there is no focus or mission," he said.

According to Kay Spillman, counselor for Somerset Technical

College and Beth Hopper, counselor at Laurel Technical College, personal management is extremely important.

Skills like keeping priorities, managing time, and being self-sufficient are just a few of the skills future employees and students will use throughout their lifetime.

What are employers looking for? Different jobs require different personality traits.

"Volunteer work takes dedication and the will to work without being paid," said Kelly Martin, volunteer worker for Christian Appalachian Project at the Rockcastle Youth and Teen Center.

"Dedication is the most important because you can put up with

the really tough stuff, you're dedication shines through," said Melissa Baumbach, also a volunteer at Rockcastle Youth and Teen Center.

People interested in the human services field should understand that it requires extreme patience, sincerity, dedication, and professionalism, according to Gwen Watts, Child Family Interventionist School Based Therapist from Cumberland River Comprehensive Care Center.

"In any job where customer service is applied courtesy toward the consumer is always number one," said Melinda Osborne, a teller at

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file photo
Beth Hopper was one of the representatives at the RCHS career and college fair November 29. Above, she speaks with senior Jon Noe at a college fair earlier this year.

College applications, essays don't have to be a stress test

BY COURTNEY ALEXANDER

Applications, applications, applications—your senior year consists of filling out one after another. Right now most seniors are looking for a break in the endless flow of applications to various colleges, technical, and vocational schools. All the forms you must fill out can be a little overwhelming at times. Well seniors, take a sigh of relief. Here are some helpful tips to help you fill out those stressful forms.

- ♦ Be as accurate as you can. The information on your application may be verified.
- ♦ Keep a copy of your application and all supporting information. The info on these will be helpful when filling out future forms.
- ♦ Watch your mail. Follow up quickly on requests for further information.
- ♦ If you need someone to write a letter of recommendation, let them know well in advance. (The extra

time could improve the quality of their recommendation.)

♦ Don't wait until the night before the due date to fill out the application. A great deal of helpful personal info may be forgotten if you're rushed for time.

♦ Include as many community service projects and honors as you can. Colleges look specifically at these and like to see students who have made a difference.

Try to set yourself above the rest of the students applying for a particular scholarship or for admission to a school. According to Mr. Whitaker, admissions counselors appreciate applications that are unique and somewhat entertaining to read. With a little effort, you'll have every school in the state knocking on your door, begging you to choose their facility.

Most applications include an essay, which is an opportunity for the reader to get to know the real

person behind the application. Although many applications give you a topic to write your essay about, some give you the freedom to discuss yourself and why you would be beneficial to that school. No matter what criteria your application consists of, the opportunity is there for you to shine above the rest. Follow these helpful hints to achieve an essay which will leave the admissions counselor breathless.

- ♦ Get off to a good start to hook your reader and keep their attention
- ♦ Do not be afraid to write your thoughts and feelings on any topic, for by sharing those you reveal the person you are.
- ♦ Use short, clear sentences to express yourself in a natural way. Let your imagination and humor show in your writing.
- ♦ Keep in mind that the admissions counselor has a foot high stack of 20 applicant folders. He's tired by

the time he gets to yours, how are you going to show him your above the rest?

♦ Honesty is the best policy. Don't make up some grand tale about you feeding the hungry children of Africa, when you've never been out of the state!

Eastern Kentucky University's scholarship chairman, Ms. Shelley Parks reiterated the honesty policy when writing essays. After reading through thousands of scholarship applications each year, Ms. Parks knows a genuine application when she sees one. ECU looks for personal experiences in volunteer work, mission trips, overcoming tremendous obstacles and school projects in which a difference was made in the school or community.

The application process is only difficult if you allow it to be. With the right preparation, you could have the application of all applications. Help is available at each step

of the application process, so don't be afraid to ask. Finally, remember this, you cannot receive scholarships if you don't apply for them. So apply to everything you can and ensure the most prosperous future possible for yourself.

Helpful Websites

www.fastweb.com

www.umn.edu

www.hecb.wa.gov

<http://world.std.com>

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