

The Graduate!

Official Quarterly Newsletter of Graduate! Philadelphia

GRADUATE!
PHILADELPHIA

WINTER 2017

Never Too Late To Graduate!

By: Sue Eckert, CCP '16

I met my advisor at CareerLink when I was laid off from my job at the newspaper back in March of 2012. He was so kind and knowledgeable about the possibilities of my future despite the fact that I was 63 at the time. In order to be marketable in today's world, we felt that additional schooling would be a great way to go, as I absolutely need to work for a good long while yet.

I kept in touch with my advisor and with Graduate! Philadelphia off and on over the four years I was attending school. G!P also kept in touch with me through emails with their latest offerings, career fairs and offered any additional assistance I might need. Luckily, I just ploughed on through (even through cancer, chemo and radiation). I am forever grateful to my advisor for giving me a leg up and encouragement to go forward. I am now a December 2016 graduate of CCP with a 3.5 average and induction into Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and very proud at age 67.



Philadelphia University Advisor Kathy Moran-Gannon with a Comebacker at our Adult College Fair at the School District of Philadelphia

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OUR PARTNERS INCLUDE:



Graduate! Philadelphia

Our mission is to increase the number of adults with college degrees. We provide FREE advising, coaching and support to adults to and through college. Don't wait! We can help you get your diploma!

1211 Chestnut Street, Suite 900 Philadelphia, PA 19107 | 215.498.1504 | www.GRADUATEphiladelphia.org | United Way Donor Choice Agency Number 48326

It's Scholarship Season!

By: Mary Bustamante

In addition to federal aid and state grants through FAFSA and PHEAA, scholarship money is available for adult learners — you just have to know where to look! Here are some strategies for a successful scholarship hunt:

- 1. Use helpful scholarship search engines and apps:** To find scholarships that you may be eligible for, try a search engine! Here are some good sites to start with:
 - a) Myscholly.com
 - b) Fastweb.com
 - c) Petersons.com
 - d) Collegeboard.com
- 2. Check out university and organization websites:** Many institutions list outside scholarship opportunities and internal scholarship programs for students.
- 3. Write your personal statement/scholarship essays:** Most scholarship applications will require a personal statement or essay. This is a critical component of your application ! You must present why you are a great candidate for the scholarship. Graduate! Philadelphia hosts several workshops throughout the year on how to craft a successful scholarship essay. Individual tutoring appointments to review your essay are available at the Graduate! Philadelphia office as well.
- 4. Get organized!** Scholarship applications may require letters of recommendation, transcripts, and a resume. Start working on gathering these now and keep them saved for easy reference.
- 5. Schedule time for your scholarship search:** Consider your scholarship hunt a part-time job and carve out an hour each day to review and apply for scholarships. Graduate! Philadelphia developed a project plan and spreadsheet to help you monitor scholarship requirements, deadline dates, and more.
- 6. Don't forget to ask for help!** The Graduate! Philadelphia College Success team can help you with your scholarship search, review your personal statement essay, and assist you with getting organized! Give us a call today.



College Success Advisor Anthony Johnson presenting about Graduate! Philadelphia's services at the Mayor's Commission on African-American Males

GRADUATE! PHILADELPHIA

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- Scholarships you can apply for
 - Graduate! Philadelphia event updates
- Opportunities for college students across Philadelphia
- Tips for filling out your FAFSA

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you need to know.



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6 Steps to Better College Writing!

By: Rosa Cohen

Nervous about writing papers for application essays, scholarships, or college classes? We've got your back! Here are some strategies to improve your college-level writing skills.

- 1. Practice, practice, practice:** Writing is a skill like anything else! If you want to get better at it, all you have to do is practice. Every paper you write helps you get better at writing the next one.
- 2. Outline:** Plan before you dive in! Even if you're in a last-minute hurry, take a moment to plot out your ideas and make sure your data supports your point. This will make the writing process go much faster and result in a more coherent paper.
- 3. Thesis statement:** The cornerstone of any college paper is the thesis statement, which explains the point of your paper in one single sentence. Keep that point in mind as you write! Make sure that every single paragraph in your paper helps support your thesis statement.
- 4. Cite as you write:** Failing to cite your sources is plagiarism, a serious offense that can result in expulsion. Fortunately, it's easy to avoid! Just take care to cite every source you use. If you keep careful track of your sources and cite them as you write, you'll find that it's easier to cite your sources than you thought! For more information about how to cite sources in your field, go to <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/> and select the citation style your professor asked your class to use.
- 5. Edit:** Every writer, no matter how good, edits his or her work multiple times before handing it in. Even better, bring it to your college's writing center to get additional feedback on it!
- 6. Reach out for help:** We can help you practice the skills you need to succeed! Come to a workshop at Graduate! Philadelphia to learn more strategies to improve your college writing. See the Upcoming Events section (p. 4) for more details.



College Success Advisor Anthony Johnson with a Comebacker at the Education Fair for the Philadelphia Department of Prisons



From left to right: Lorraine Ballard Morrill, Director of News and Community Affairs for iHeartMedia Philadelphia; Gladys Sistrunk, Comebacker; and Barbara Mattleman, Executive Director of Graduate! Philadelphia

Why Be an Ambassador for Graduate! Philadelphia?

By: Denise Whittaker

When is the last time you referred your favorite store, restaurant, or house painter to a friend? When we love a product or place, we can't wait to tell our friends about it. We feel so good about it we share that information with others. That is what an Ambassador for Graduate! Philadelphia does.

Has Graduate! Philadelphia helped you to accomplish your academic goal? Perhaps you found us by way of a referral. You can share the Graduate! Philadelphia experience you had with someone who needs it.

What's expected of an Ambassador? An Ambassador reaches people who are in need of our services but are unaware of the services we provide. Ambassadors reach out through their communities, recreation centers, places of worship, community organizations, and workplaces.

It's easy to sign up! If you can commit to approximately two hours to attend a college fair, participate in a Phone-a-Thon, attend special Graduate! Philadelphia events, professional development and training sessions, or other activities sponsored by Graduate! Philadelphia, you can be an Ambassador. Any amount of time you can give to support the goal of Graduate! Philadelphia is greatly appreciated.

After attending a training session, you will be provided with materials to make presentations and to distribute to groups and/or locations that you feel would benefit.

To show our appreciation for your commitment, Graduate! Philadelphia can provide to you:

- Letter of recommendation for volunteer service
- Networking with college advisors

If you would like to help Graduate! Philadelphia make a difference in Philadelphia by helping more adults go to and through college, let us know! You can call our office at 215-498-1504 or email Denise Whittaker at Denise.Whittaker@GraduatePhiladelphia.org.

Become a shining example of what a dream fulfilled looks like: it's you, a college graduate!



UPCOMING EVENTS AT GRADUATE! PHILADELPHIA:

MATH CONFIDENCE WORKSHOP

Wednesday, February 8
5:00 - 7:00 pm
Graduate! Philadelphia
1211 Chestnut Street,
Suite 900
Philadelphia, PA 19107

CRAFTING YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT WORKSHOP

Wednesday, February 15
5:00 - 6:30 pm
Graduate! Philadelphia
1211 Chestnut Street,
Suite 900
Philadelphia, PA 19107

MATH CONFIDENCE WORKSHOP

Wednesday, February 22
11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Graduate! Philadelphia
1211 Chestnut Street,
Suite 900
Philadelphia, PA 19107

WRITING FOR COLLEGE SUCCESS

Wednesday, March 8
11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Graduate! Philadelphia
1211 Chestnut Street,
Suite 900
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Save the Date!

Saturday, April 1 • 10am – 2pm
Adult College Fair • Workshops • Door Prizes
Community College of
Philadelphia

