

FEBRUARY 2023

Expanded Edition

Heartland HAPPENINGS

HARDIN—LARUE—BRECKINRIDGE—HART—GRAYSON



Chris Reed

Director's Corner

Near the end of 2022, Governor Andy Beshear unveiled new programs targeting an untapped segment of our workforce – the justice-involved population. “My faith teaches me that there are second chances in this life and that we are all our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers,” the Governor said. He challenged us to find ways to include or increase services that will assist this population and reduce recidivism.

Taking the direction of the Governor, we at Heartland Adult Education decided to expand a program that we were already offering in the Hardin County Correctional Center: ServSafe. The program is accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the Conference for Food Protection (CFP) and most states require the ServSafe certifications to operate a business based on food. The lessons teach students how to safely handle, prepare, cook, serve, and store food. In addition, students will be educated on foodborne illnesses and food allergies. We wrote a customer service course that is in addition, and compliments, the ServSafe material. Students earn an additional certificate for its completion.

Having the certificates at the interview will greatly increase the chance that the student will be successful in a job search within the industry. And, for those who were previously justice-involved, that may make all the difference.

We've expanded this program to Breckinridge and Grayson County Detention Centers and we are in the works to bring it to LaRue County. Our goal is to bring the program to our entire catchment area this year. We also are working with local restaurants to ensure that a justice-involved student who has earned the certificate will, at the very least, receive an interview upon presenting the credential. While there are no guarantees of being hired, our partners' willingness to grant an interview may be enough to encourage these students that there is a place in society that will at least give them a chance. In this edition, Dana spotlights Pappaw's BBQ, one of our first partners to join us in this endeavor.



Stem to Stern

dana wolfe

College and Career Navigator



The Heart of the Matter

I have long been a proponent for lifetime learning. As a former professor and college Dean, I've made a career out of educating adults. Recently, I learned the value of continued education in a most personal manner.

I was scheduled for major surgery, but had to get clearance because my blood pressure was higher than the surgeon liked. I went to my doctor and she told me to purchase a machine to monitor my blood pressure, which I immediately did. But.....I paid attention to the blood pressure reading and NOT the pulse number because the latter meant nothing to me. I was unaware of what the range was supposed to be and I didn't educate myself as I should have. The information was there, but I ignored it.

That mistake could have cost me my life.

I was having symptoms that I thought was related to "long-term Covid" – shortness of breath and having little energy to complete even the simplest physical task. The next day, at the insistence of a long-distance friend, I went to the doctor after work.

I should have known something was wrong when two different medical staff members had problems finding my pulse. Then, the obviously concerned doctor came in and, after listening to my chest, cryptically told me "Stay here, don't move. I'm going to go out here and I will leave the door open." Within minutes, a crew of ambulance staff was in the tiny room to take me ACROSS THE STREET to the hospital.

I was lucky. I mean really, really lucky. A normal pulse is between 60-90 beats per minute and, for the past week, it never got above 40, but I still ignored doing the research. As an educator, I should have known better.

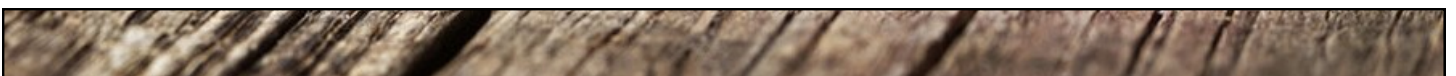
Between the office and the hospital, and in just 24 hours, I had nine EKGs and atropine was used on me three times. My pulse was in the 30s and fell into the 20s in the middle of the night. I had an emergency pacemaker put in the next day to save my life. I would later find out that while most people's pacemakers "pace" their hearts less than 20% of the time, mine was pacing 93% of the time.

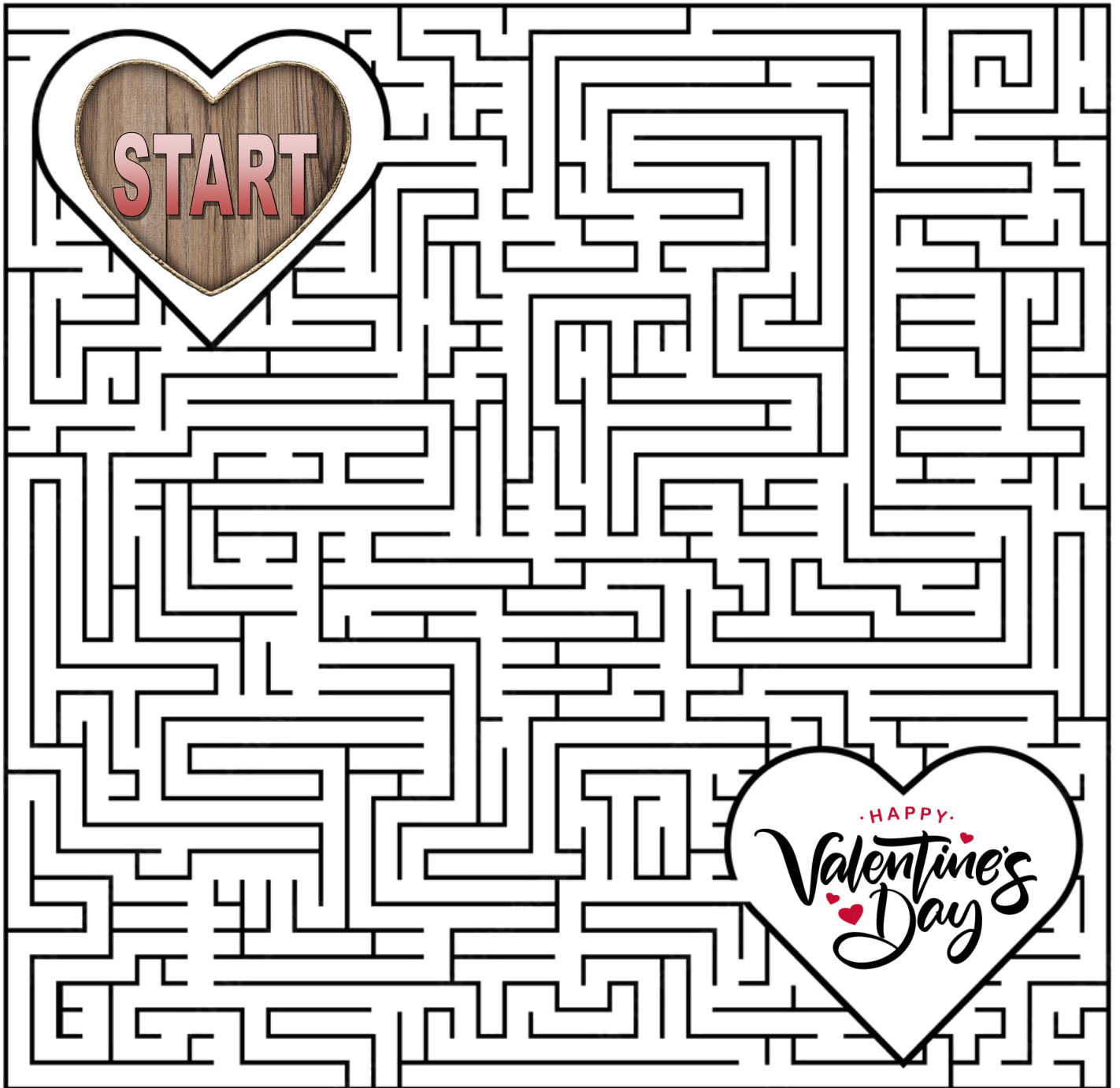
Lucky, indeed.....I didn't go to the doctor about my heart, but through a series of events involving educated people, I am here to tell the cautionary tale.



Learning isn't something that exists only within the confines of a classroom. Adult, lifelong learning is knowing WHEN to seek out the education that you need (or want) , obtaining it at just the right time, and using it in a meaningful way. Learning shouldn't be something we put off or push aside as the benefits of gleaning the knowledge will greatly outweigh the trials and tribulations inherent in its obtainment.


It can be a life-altering experience in a most literal sense.

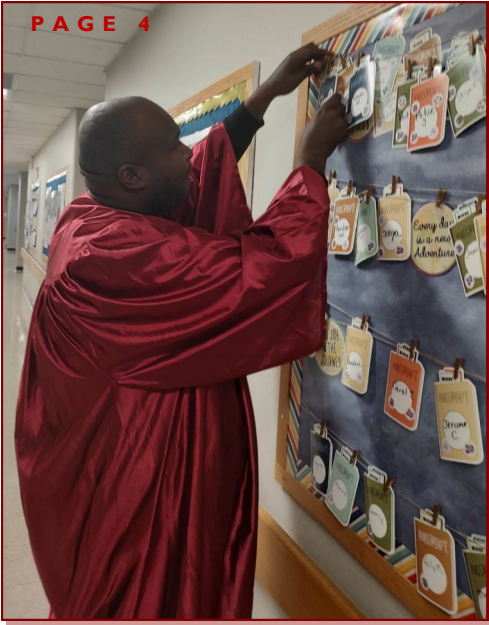




Danai Gurira (*The Walking Dead* and *Black Panther* movies), 44
Freddie Highmore (*The Good Doctor*), 30
Simon Pegg (*Star Trek*), 52
Teller (Magician ,Penn and Teller), 74
Rob Thomas (*Matchbox 20*), 50 — wait, what???

Born on
February 14th

A large, three-dimensional red heart is positioned on the right side of the bottom section. It sits on a dark, textured wooden surface. The heart is a vibrant red color and has a slight shadow, giving it a realistic appearance.



L to R: William Ray, Chelsea Leasor, and Koda Wilcoxon

Moving On UP!



As students pass their official GED tests, they move their passports up and up and up until they reach the Graduate line! If a student can't come in to do it themselves, Math Instructor Becky McGuffin takes care of making sure the board is regularly updated. Our students are going places!



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



Heartland Adult Education is instituting a new initiative whereby those who leave the correctional facilities having earned a ServSafe certificate will also receive a list of partner food establishments that will, upon presentation of that certificate, give them an interview. They are not promised a job, but they will not be summarily turned away. Pappaw's BBQ was among the first to raise their proverbial hand wanting to be included. I wanted to write a brief spotlight on the business, but I left with a story of redemption and hope that needs to be heard.

It's Not Where You've Been, It's Where You're Going

By: dana wolfe

At a tall table, I waited to interview Pappaw's BBQ's owner, Donnie Simoneit. The place is unassuming with a couple of well-lit pool tables, a corner set up for live music and karaoke, and an apparent penchant for the Buffalo Bills proudly displayed on each wall. Though the décor may be typical, the vibe of the place was anything but. To borrow a phrase, it felt like "a place where everybody knows your name." He laughs as he explains, "If you sit down alone, it won't be long before someone approaches you with friendship." He continued, "When you walk through that door, you are equal with everyone else in here. I have judges, police officers, politicians, construction workers – everyone – in here all the time. No one is better than anyone else. "

To understand the equalizing of the restaurant doors, you first must understand the man. Donnie is unabashedly honest about a past that he describes as "a 30 page rap sheet." When I asked if he wanted me to leave out of this article, he looked me straight in the eye and without hesitation, said, "No, you write that." Donnie is a man who doesn't run or hide from his past, but instead embraces it as a part of the story that is still being written – a story that has helped innumerable others along the way.

With the help of Bridge Aftercare Ministries, Donnie learned to apply Biblical principles to real life and, and as he made the journey, to take responsibility for his past actions. "It's not where you've been – it's where you're going. Do you want to be defined by your past or your future?"

"Honesty and integrity," Donnie began, "is how you move forward from incarceration." He continued, "Because of our past we have to go one step further than other people. You understand that you will always be judged as different until you prove yourself. It's not just given to you when you are a felon, it has to be earned. Trust is easy to lose, but it's not easy to get it back. And, when you do, you protect it at all costs."



Continued on Page 6

Donnie admitted that he put himself through a lot. "I was mad at the world and got into a lot of trouble, just living day to day. But, I asked God to change my heart, and he did." And now, Donnie uses that heart to help others. "Most people don't go back to the prison where they were incarcerated, but I not only went back to Roederer Correctional Complex to teach in the Bridge program, I was asked to be on the Board of Directors." He also graduated from seminary while he was incarcerated and is certified as a Christian counselor. With earned credibility that lends credence to his words, Donnie is able to talk frankly to the people who need it most.

Donnie's wife, Toby, stopped by the table to tell a story of Donnie going into the prison in expensive clothes. "He was making very good money and looked like it. The inmates took one look at him and dismissed him, saying, 'You don't understand us.'" It took a split second for Donnie to loudly rattle off his prison number. "They understood and the place went silent." At that moment, Donnie had the credibility he needed to talk to them in a way others simply couldn't. "He's been called 'The Poster Child' for reform," Toby proudly told me. As she stole a glance at her husband, she quietly added, "When I look at him, I don't see a felon, I see a man who is generous."

Generous, indeed. With his wife and family, Donnie has fed those who are hungry for free, counseled newly released individuals in the parking lot, given out thousands of free meals at Thanksgiving, distributed toys at Christmas, raised money for community members' causes, and continually offers to help with the justice-involved to find jobs and resources. "I don't just give them things. I don't give them a handout, but instead, a hand UP." Donnie and Toby also go to the prison to serve Christmas dinner to 500 inmates who are so appreciative that they look him up later to give thanks – and usually a hug – for the kindness shown to them in a time when they needed it most.

His life has come full circle. His former corrections officer is now the restaurant's bouncer and the two have a close knit, trusting relationship. Though he has numerous written accolades that attest to his new place in society, it was one exchange that stuck with him. "The greatest compliment I ever got," Donnie began, "was from my former Deputy Warden. I went to the prison to speak and, when I was done, I saw him sitting there with tears streaming down his face. I asked him what was wrong and he said that his job was 'thankless,' but when he saw someone succeed and change their lives, it made it all worth it. I never forgot that."

His rise in the restaurant business was nearly meteoric. He was making a good deal of money in another industry, but left it all behind in 2020, when he decided to follow his dreams. He started with a pop up gazebo on the side of the road, and quickly progressed to a small, standalone building on Dixie. Then, he leased the building where Pappaw's currently resides –in the Roses complex in Elizabethtown. In February, he will be nearly doubling his square feet as his restaurant expands next door.

I asked him what we, as adult educators, should say to the people in the classes that we teach at the jail. "Tell them they can earn respect. They don't have to be condemned. It's not easy, I can tell you that, but you have to learn to be 110% honest at all times. A person is only as good as their word. And, that word always has to be good. Tell them to take it one step at a time, like everyone else."

He gave me a sideways grin and, with a sparkle in his eyes, he finished with a change truism that we could all learn from, "If you've always done what you've always done, then you are always gonna get what you've always gotten."



Hardin/LaRue



You never know what you might see at the Hardin/LaRue main office. **Left:** CCN dana wolfe received a present from a GED graduate (who knows she is crazy about giraffes). **Middle:** Tina Anderson representing for her team. **Right:** Math instructor Diane Kelley picking up the Santa head she left in the office....and, not surprisingly, she just couldn't resist!



Michael J. Fox: GED Graduate

"I did receive my GED (General Equivalency Degree). I finally put in the effort to achieve this goal at the urging of my son. He was four at the time. I'd sit at the dining room table, Sam perched on my lap playing with a plastic dinosaur, while a math tutor schooled me in the finer points of the Pythagorean theorem. And so, at the tender age of thirty-two, with my son registered to begin kindergarten the next fall, I applied to take the test that would make me, for all intents and purposes, a high school graduate."



Removing **BARRIERS**

Being an adult learner is hard. And, it's even more difficult to find a class schedule that works with the ever constant life barriers that stand in the way. Director Chris Reed has addressed this problem in Hardin County by greatly expanding the Adult Education classes offered in the northern end of county. In an effort to remove a substantial barrier that students face, we now offer evening classes in both GED math and reading classes four nights a week in Radcliff at North Hardin High School. In addition, Chris has set up two new classes in LaRue County at the library.

For more information, or to schedule a class in Hardin/LaRue, call the office at 270.769.8866.

Heartland Adult Education Consortium

Graduation

MARCH 24

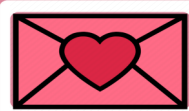
7:00 PM Graduates report to the
GED office at 6:30 PM.

ECTC, RPC Building, Room 210

270.769.8866

2023





Resource!

Help with Internet Connectivity

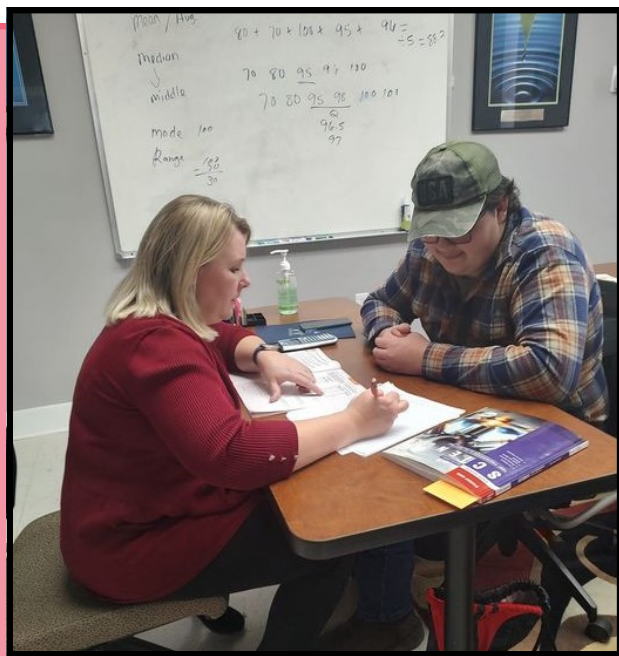
The Affordable Connectivity Program, overseen by the FCC, has extended the program to assist low-income households in paying for Internet connectivity and devices. Households will qualify if they are 200% below the Federal Poverty line or if they are receiving government benefits including SNAP, Medicaid, SSI, WIC, the Pell Grant, Public housing assistance, veterans pension and survivors benefit, or Free and Reduced-Price lunches.

Qualified households may receive:

- Up to a \$30 month discount on Internet service
- A low cost service plan that may be fully covered by the Affordable Connectivity Program
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer (with a co-payment of more than \$10, but less than \$50)

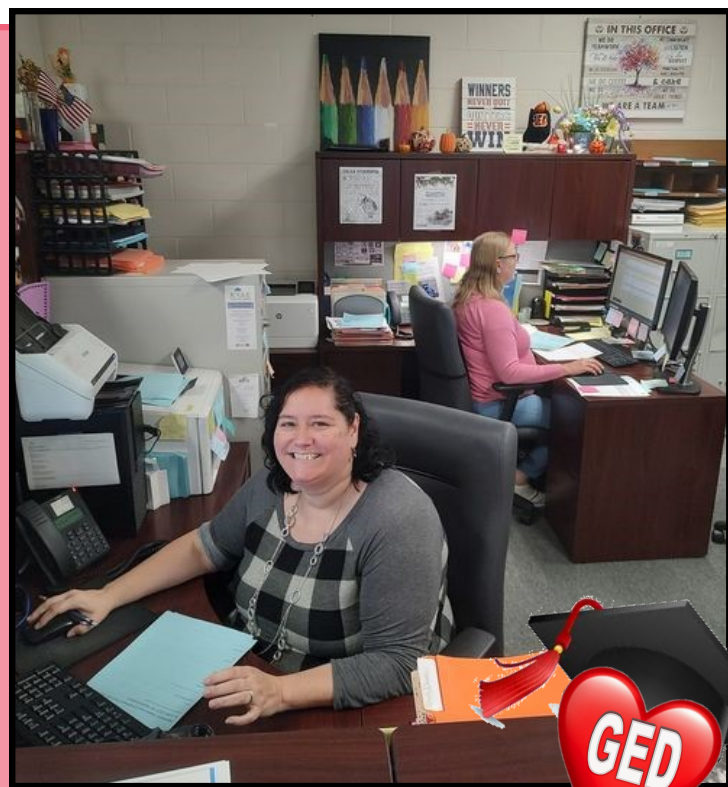
Please check the website at www.affordableconnectivity.gov/ to apply for this benefit.

Even if you don't qualify, many others will, so please pass this important information on to someone who may benefit.



Above: Grayson County's Instructor Laura Hayes working with Harley Doerr.

Right: Hardin/LaRue Data Specialists Amanda Herndon and Tina Anderson.





COMMUNITY RESOURCE:

Virtual Job Fair!

Right: This is a screenshot showing the events already planned for February.

Go to:

<https://ltcareercenter.org/events/> to access the hyper-linked version of this calendar.

 Home Job Seekers Employers Youth Veterans Board News Events Contact 						
30	31	1 9:00 am - 3:00 pm INOAC Open Interviews	2 9:30 am - 10:30 am How to Participate in Virtual Job Fairs	3 9:00 am - 10:00 am February Workshop: Successful Resume 10:00 am - 11:00 am February Workshop: How to Search for a Job & Resume Writing	4	5
6	7 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm VIRTUAL JOB FAIR - Let's Talk Construction	8 9:00 am - 3:00 pm INOAC Open Interviews	9 10:00 am - 2:00 pm INOAC Job Fair	10 9:00 am - 10:00 am February Workshop: Successful Interview 10:00 am - 11:00 am February Workshop: Budgeting	11	12
13	14 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Toyotomi Onsite Job Fair	15 9:00 am - 3:00 pm INOAC Open Interviews	16	17 9:00 am - 10:00 am February Workshop: Successful Job Search 10:00 am - 11:00 am February Workshop: Interviewing Skills	18	19
20	21 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm VIRTUAL JOB FAIR - Let's Talk Transportation & Logistics	22 9:00 am - 3:00 pm INOAC Open Interviews	23	24 9:00 am - 10:00 am February Workshop: Successful Workforce Retention 10:00 am - 11:00 am February Workshop: Financial Empowerment	25	26

The Kentucky Career Center - Lincoln Trail is now offering twice-monthly virtual job fairs at no cost through the recruitment platform Premier Virtual. During these events, job seekers have the opportunity to submit their résumé to regional employers of their choice and interact with employers through chat and teleconferencing features.

Known as Let's Talk Tuesdays, virtual job fairs hosted by KCC-LT take place on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. EST. Each event focuses on a specific industry, including manufacturing, construction, transportation and logistics, business and IT services and healthcare. In addition, a general virtual job fair event will be held each quarter, where participants can interact with employers from a variety of industries.

Before participating in a Let's Talk Tuesdays event, it is important to come prepared with a PDF of your résumé (no other electronic file will be supported), questions to ask employers, an effective method of note-taking, and availability for interviews or employment and internship offers, including start and end dates. Job seekers are also encouraged to wear business casual or business professional attire during the events. To prepare for a virtual job fair, KCC-LT also offers monthly informational sessions explaining the process on the Thursday prior to the first Tuesday of each month.

To register for the next Let's Talk Tuesdays event and get a head start on landing your next job, visit ltcareercenter.org/events.

FREE!

GED CLASS

At the LaRue County
Public Library

Mondays
and
Wednesdays
3-5 pm

Math focus, but other subjects as needed!



To Register: 270.769.8866 Instructor's Office: 270.524.1267
Library: 215 Lincoln Drive, Hodgenville, KY

FREE!

GED READING CLASS

North Hardin High School

MONDAYS

5-8 PM

WEDNESDAYS

5-8 PM



270.769.8866

FREE!

GED MATH CLASS

at

North Hardin High School

Tuesdays and Thursdays

5-8 PM

This is an in-person class (not Zoom).

Call 270.769.8866

Instructor Diane Kelley: 270.304.4893

KUDOS

"I've struggled for quite some time with the emotions of everyday life and actually settling down and working on my GED. The teachers in Grayson County have been patient with me and helped guide me through it. Laura and Josh are such amazing teachers and Veronica is awesome."

— Peggy Minton, Grayson County GED Student





KY BY THE NUMBERS...

Percent of Working Age Population With Less Than a High School Diploma

11.15% Commonwealth of Kentucky

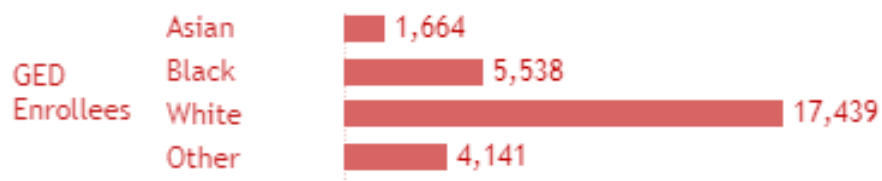
10.65% Heartland Consortium Region

GED ENROLLEES

14,077 FEMALES

14,705 MALES

32
Average Age of GED Enrollees



 40,267 Enrollees in Adult Education Programs 2018 - 2020	 7,390 GED Earners 2018 - 2020	 1,786 GED Earners Enrolling In Postsecondary 2018 - 2020
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Kentuckians (ages 18 – 64)

2,724,405

without a high school diploma or credential

300,000+

Source: Kentucky Center for Statistics





One of America's oldest candy companies, Necco was founded in 1847 in Boston by Englishman Oliver Chase, who got the business off to a good start by inventing devices that cut candy lozenges and pulverized sugar. Necco first sold confections similar to Sweethearts, but in the shape of scallop shells. Messages written on colored paper were tucked inside the fortune cookie-style candy. Fourteen years later, Oliver's brother Daniel designed a machine that stamped words directly on the candies with red vegetable dye. The treats became popular at weddings and were considerably larger than today's hearts as they could accommodate wordy relationship advice such as "Married in White, you have chosen right" or "Married in Pink, he'll take to drink." By the early 1900s the shape of the candy had changed from shells, baseballs and horseshoes to hearts. As the little hearts grew in popularity, the missives grew shorter: "Miss You," "Love U."

Quoted from: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/the-history-of-sweetheart-candies-157116/>

Heartland Adult Education Consortium Locations

Hardin/LaRue

(270) 769-8866
ECTC Campus
600 College Street Rd.
OTB 300, Room 310
Elizabethtown
(Classes also In Radcliff)

Breckinridge

(270) 756-1730
116 Old Highway 60
Hardinsburg

Grayson

270.259.9038
125 E. White Oak Street
Leitchfield

Hart

(270) 524-1267
230 Interstate Plaza Rd.
Munfordville



Connect with Us!

<https://www.facebook.com/>

HardinLaRueAdultEducation

Check out our Facebook page for community resources, job fairs, employment opportunities, announcements, and plenty of encouragement! Please like the page and share any posts you think may be helpful for someone else. The more shares, the more people we may be able to help!

Please visit and like our other Consortium Facebook sites. See the QR codes on the next page for easy access to the sites.

- ♥ **Grayson County Adult Education**
- ♥ **Hart County Adult Education**
- ♥ **Breckinridge County Adult Education**

