

Counselor Corner  
By Chris Lee

The Nex-Generation (Nex-Tech) Student Internship Program is accepting student intern applications until March 1. The program allows students (16+) to work for area businesses during the summer at a base wage of \$12/hour. Students gain professional skills and broaden their perspectives on career options. Local businesses benefit by networking with youth, bringing fresh ideas to the workplace, and “interviewing” students for potential future jobs – all of which contribute to youth retention to our small, rural communities. The Internship Program runs from May 30 to August 9.

Students can apply by going to <https://connectnwk.org/nexgen/>. When they scroll down the page, they'll see the available internship postings. They can use the Keyword search to help them find specific businesses or jobs or locations. Apply ASAP, as some positions have already been filled.

The Department of Education recently announced that universities will not have access to student FAFSA data until at least mid- to late March this year. Students are still encouraged to complete the FAFSA as soon as possible and K-State and Fort Hays State will maintain their March 1st priority date for institutionally awarded need-based aid. Students can still submit a FAFSA after March 1 for consideration for other types of aid.

March 18 is the deadline to apply for the April 13 ACT. And juniors across Kansas will be taking the ACT at their home schools in February-April. Now is the time to prepare for the ACT.

Around half of ACT English consists of grammar questions. If that sounds like your worst nightmare, don't panic! With some expert guidance and a little practice, you can knock out grammar questions and boost your ACT score. Parallelism is when you use the same verb structure to list items in a sentence, There will be questions about modifiers, or words that describe another word.

There is free ACT test prep at [www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/free-act-test-prep.html](http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/free-act-test-prep.html). You can also find more help (for pay) at [www.prepscholar.com](http://www.prepscholar.com) and other sites.

Fort Hays State will be offering an Online Open House on March 25 from 6 to 8 PM. This virtual, drop-in event for prospective online students will provide an inside look into our college and programs with live events including: Faculty talks and Q&A with department chairs from all FHSU academic departments; Dialogue with current students and organizations; How to apply; Tuition costs/Scholarships; Resources for online students including Health & Wellness, Library and Career Services.

Financial Aid and Student Fiscal services will be available to answer questions. There will be live prize drawings and giveaways throughout the night. Register by Friday, March 1, to secure your spot, chance to win free swag and be entered into our scholarship drawings. This is the registration link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfqHJco6CloO6x1BSjPvNPXE5Vr5aoYaYvoDZ32USprD9daDw/viewform>. You can also call Admissions at 785-628-5666.

The Kansas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (KACRAO) offers scholarships to reward students who have demonstrated quality leadership during their high school years. There are four \$500 awards available each academic year, which may be used at KACRAO member institutions. The scholarships

will be designated as follows: one per school type: four-year public, four-year private, community college, and technical college. Apply now at <https://kacrao.memberclicks.net/2024scholarship#!/>. The Application Deadline is March 22, 2024. Contact the KACRAO Scholarship Committee Chair at: [scholarshipcommittee@kacrao.org](mailto:scholarshipcommittee@kacrao.org) if you have questions.

The HirePaths Cool Careers video series is made for kids. Each episode is hosted by a local child and highlights a fun, in-demand career in Kansas. In this new video, host Kamryn steps into his dream role: the heroic world of nursing. Take a virtual field trip as Kamryn dons scrubs and a stethoscope to follow Marissa, a registered nurse at Stormont Vail Health in Topeka. The duo covers everything from how to get started in healthcare to perks of the job. Watch now at <https://hirepaths.com/cool-careers-videos/registered-nurse>.

Summer programs provide many benefits to students, including academic enrichment, exposure to college life, skills development, networking opportunities, personal growth, and more. Both of my daughters did summer camps for these reasons, including HOBY, science camps, etc.

Here is a list of free summer camps that are available across the country: [www.forbes.com/sites/kristenmoon/2024/01/29/competitive-and-free-summer-programs-for-high-school-students/?sh=554672043149](http://www.forbes.com/sites/kristenmoon/2024/01/29/competitive-and-free-summer-programs-for-high-school-students/?sh=554672043149). Some of them have deadlines that are rapidly approaching.

Deadlines to remember: Feb. 15-Final deadline to apply for FHSU scholarships; Feb. 19-Deadline to apply for Ellis Foundation Scholarship; March 1-FAFSA Deadline for FHSU and KSU; March 8-deadline to apply for April 13 ACT; March 31-Deadline to apply for Kansas Masonic Foundation Scholarships; May 1-Deadline to apply for O'Brate Scholarships; May 3-deadline to apply for June 8 ACT; June 7-deadline to apply for July 13 ACT.

Sophomore/Juniors Days: Feb. 15 at NCKTC-Beloit; Feb. 21 at NCKTC-Hays; April 15 at FHSU; Freshman/Sophomore Day at WSU-April 27