

Flowers are pictured throughout this zine to reflect the blossoming and development that one experiences throughout higher education.

Photo credits: page 7 Goldenrod <https://www.live-native.com/natcon/uploads/2019/02/goldenrod-flowers.jpg>; page 8 Coneflower https://www.flickr.com/photos/kristi_decourcy/51262218422/; page 9 Dogwood <https://www.flickr.com/photos/pcoin/2167085572/>; page 10 https://www.flickr.com/photos/douglas_mcgrady/31355834573.

This project is funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (RE-250024-OLS-21).



Citation: Hands, A., Candela, R., Krull, H., & Roehrig, A. (2025). *Project CLiA College planning resources: An annotated zine.* <https://ubwp.buffalo.edu/projectclia/resources/>
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Project CLiA

College Planning Resources: An Annotated Zine



Led Dr. Africa S. Hands (Assistant Professor, University at Buffalo), **Project CLiA** examines public library support of college literacy across Central Appalachia. *College literacy* refers to the literacy or knowledge base needed to make informed decisions about one's entry into higher education.

This annotated zine highlights a variety of college planning resources including those specific to Project CLiA's study region of Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. Feel free to print copies for your library, link to the resource from your library's website, or add the state-specific resources to your library's website.

KEY

- * denotes resources with self-guided courses
- ┌ denotes resources useful to library staff
- ¥ denotes multilingual resources
- » denotes free resources

West Virginia Resources

*┌ ¥ » West Virginia Info Depot is sponsored by the Library Section of the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History (formerly the West Virginia Library Commission) and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Valuable to library staff as well as users, this site aggregates various college and career preparation resources such as test prep, job search & career readiness, and skill certifications. WVInfo is available to all West Virginians; access to some resources requires a library care. <https://wvinfodepot.org/>

┌» College for West Virginia (CFWV) has a wealth of resources for prospective students. The website offers a career assessment tool, information on the Regents Bachelor of Arts Program (RBA), information on state-specific financial aid resources including the Promise Scholarship, and access to a free college counseling via text message. Most resources are available without logging in. <https://www.cfwv.com/>



General Resources

F » CareerOneStop Scholarship Finder is an online database with over 9,500 scholarships for certificates and undergraduate and graduate degrees. Career information is also available including employment statistics and wage data. No login is required to view the scholarship and career summaries.

<https://www.careeronestop.org/toolkit/training/find-scholarships.aspx>

F » Community College Finder is a resource for locating community colleges. Hosted by the American Association of Community Colleges, this site is useful if you know a geographical area where you would like to attend community college but are not entirely sure what programs are available. View enrollment numbers, institutional profiles, student demographics, and staff contacts. No login required.

<https://www.aacc.nche.edu/college-finder/>

F * LearningExpress Library is a test prep resource from EBSCO designed to help users earn a high school equivalency, prepare for college, join the military, change careers, and more. This resource includes practice tests, interactive tutorials, e-books, articles, and flashcards to prepare for occupational or college entrance exams. Available through libraries, LearningExpress Library requires a subscription for users to access this content.

F » Common App is non-profit organization. The website enables students to apply to over 1,000 colleges and universities in the U.S. The Common App is free to use for students, counselors, and families; however, applicants must pay the applicable institutional application fee. Information about application fee waivers is available on the website. To submit admissions applications, users must create an account on the Common App site. <https://www.commonapp.org>

Tennessee Resources

F » College for TN is an online resource that provides information and support on college and career preparedness in Tennessee including employment opportunities, financial aid resources, a guide on making the transition from high school to college, and guidance for students with disabilities. The “Find a College” feature allows the user to search a database of colleges and universities which can be filtered by zip code, field of study, tuition cost, size, and housing options. Similarly, there is a “Find a Career” feature. These primary features and resources do not require an account for access.

<https://www.collegefortn.org/>

F » Tennessee Electronic Library (TEL) contains free resources for residents of Tennessee, including homework prep, test prep, and career preparedness tools. TEL is administered by the Tennessee State Library and Archives. Access to academic databases is available for students conducting research. To access some resources, users need to verify residency in TN.

<https://tntel.info/>



Reflection space

You'll likely speak with many people about the application and admissions process. Use this space to take notes on these conversations.

What are your educational and professional goals?

What information do you need to make an informed decision about college?

What's unclear about the admissions process?

Kentucky Resources

F » Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) is a state agency established to improve students' access to higher education. KHEAA provides state aid such as the Kentucky Education Excellence Scholarship (KEES) program, the College Access Program (CAP) Grant, the Kentucky Tuition Grant (KTG) and other scholarship and grant programs. The free KHEAA site offers many helpful resources on preparing for college. <https://www.kheaa.com/web/home.faces>

F » GEAR UP Kentucky (GUK) is a program to help low-income college bound students in Kentucky. GUK offers a Scholar Academy, hosts the Institute for a College-Going Culture, and offers support to parents and institutions working with prospective college students. No account is required to access resources on this website. <http://gearupky.org/>

F » The Kentucky Virtual Library (KYVL) is a consortium of over 300 Kentucky libraries and institutions, including colleges and universities, public libraries, K-12 schools, and the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA). KYVL provides resources for students of all ages including GED prep, access to databases for career and business resources, and academic databases. Library account needed to access some resources on this website. <https://kyvl.org/>



General Resources

F ¥ » Federal Student Aid is the all-encompassing site for finding out about and applying for federal financial aid. Federal financial aid can include loans and grants. The FAFSA website provides information on deadlines, how to apply for federal financial aid, and the public service loan forgiveness program. A login is required to complete the FAFSA, however users do not need to be affiliated with a library or school system to create an account. <https://studentaid.gov>

F » College Navigator is a free database hosted by the NCES to help users search for colleges based on location, type of degree, institution type, tuition amount, test scores, housing, and more. Users can create a list of schools and do a side-by-side comparison of the results to discern which institutions are aligned with their needs and circumstances. This resource also links to the College Affordability and Transparency Center. <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

F » National Center for College Students with Disabilities (NCCSD) is a clearinghouse of resources containing information on national organizations working with college students who have disabilities, crisis resources, and legal and financial support. Users can filter topics by audience, including adult learners, veterans, and parents and families. An account is not required to access resources. <https://nccsd.ici.umn.edu/>

F » College Promise is a non-profit organization that connects students to programs that fund higher education for the first two or more years. College Promise has local and state programs across 48 states. Login not required to access information. <https://www.collegepromise.org/>