

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENTS

THE OFFICIAL FULL EMPLOYMENT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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*There was not one  
need unmet, thanks to  
the FEC and the  
scholarships I  
received.*

ERICA GILLESPIE, R.N.  
AND FEC MEMBER

*on how she became a  
registered nurse through  
programs available at the FEC.*

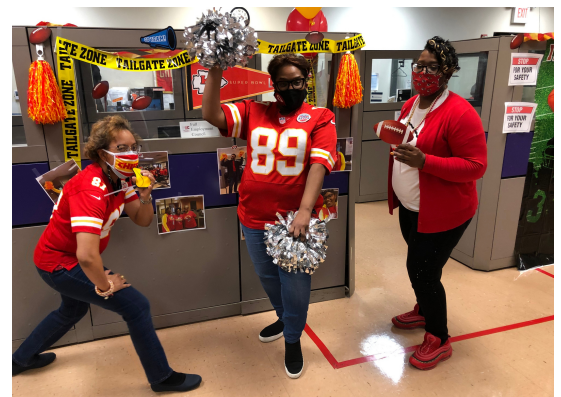


The Full Employment Council offers youth services for ages 16 - 24. Get access to scholarships, paid internships and more. To start, register online at [www.fecck.org/registration](http://www.fecck.org/registration)

**Welcome to *Workforce Developments*, the FEC's new monthly newsletter, where we will share updates, news, program developments and success stories.**



The FEC showed some hometown pride ahead of the Super Bowl



The Full Employment Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. All voice telephone numbers may be reached by persons using TTY/TDD equipment via the Missouri Relay Service at 711.

## From Homeless to Hired: Jeffery's Story



Jeffery Kreisel (left) with instructor Doran Clevenger



According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the job market for forklift drivers will continue to grow into 2020 and the next decade. A recent job market study indicated 3-4% job growth for forklift drivers through 2024, which is about on pace with other manufacturing related employees.

**Hard work, commitment to self, and skills training took FEC member Jeffery Kreisel out of the shelter and into a management position.**

Jeffery Kreisel lived at the City Union Mission Christian Life Center, a local shelter for the homeless in Kansas City. Last June, he toured the Warehouseman Training Inc. facility, and decided to invest the time and effort in training.

Since finances were a challenge, Jeffery enrolled as a member of the Full Employment Council, where he received financial aid and supportive services as he participated in the Tech Hire program, allowing him to enroll in Warehouseman Training Inc.

Through the program, Jeffery earned his Certified Warehouseman and Material Handler Certification, OSHA PIT Safety Certification, Operator's License on Classes I, II and III, as well as his OSHA 10 Hour Safety Course.

"Jeffery has an excellent attitude. He is respectful, hardworking, and follows instructions well. He was early every day. Jeffery fully participated in the class and had good input. He was always ready for the morning review and could answer most questions put to him," said instructor Doran Clevenger.

Upon completion of his training, Jeffery went to work through Express Employment at the Smithfield Foods, Kansas City Sausage Company. He began driving a forklift for them, making \$15 an hour. Before too long, he put in his application for the second shift lead position.

Now, Jeffery makes \$18.50 an hour, and has left the homeless shelter behind. He now lives on his own, working a job he enjoys.



## THE FEC ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH ENTERPRISE BANK & TRUST FOR 'GET FIT' INITIATIVE



SHELLEY PENN, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND COO

A \$50,000 investment from Enterprise Bank & Trust will allow the Full Employment Council to serve 60 typically underserved populations, providing them with needed skills and an opportunity to give back to their community.

The partnership will allow the FEC to provide a variety of technology skills training, and enhance its IT Infrastructure, which will increase access to clients. These clients can continue to use the FEC's 1740 Paseo location as a hub of career and educational activities, with access to technology, and staff on hand to help.

The initiative will also allow for paid internships for graduates of technical courses. These internships will focus on nonprofit organizations, small businesses, minority-owned businesses, and businesses in the urban corps. Participants will also engage in community service projects.

**"The Get Fit initiative gives our clients an opportunity to have fun while earning and learning." - Shelley Penn, VP and COO**

The partnership with Enterprise will also create the Financial Management Academy. This academy will help participants learn about financial literacy, teach skills such as how to build credit, establish banking relationships, and how to navigate major financial obligations, such as renting an apartment or purchasing a home.

"The 'Get Fit' initiative aligns our clients with in-demand skills training, financial management prowess and the opportunity to engage in community service by giving back shared knowledge in the technology field," said Penn.

For more information, email Scott Gordon at [sgordone@feckc.org](mailto:sgordone@feckc.org).





# Healthcare Heroes

## A Spotlight on Healthcare Training

James Kelly (left), father of five, knew that his current job wasn't what he wanted to do or where he wanted to be. He found himself unsatisfied in his line of work. He wanted something more. After searching online, he found out about the Full Employment Council, and he decided to reach out.

Dee Burns, Full Employment Council counselor, worked with James, and told James about the Medical Assistant Certificate program through FEC training partner Wellspring, and funded through the HITE program. But Dee Burns helped with more than just a career path.

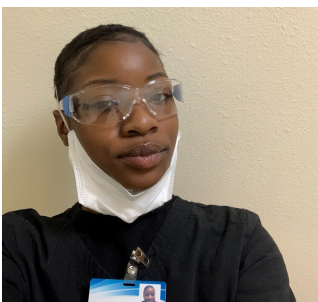
"Dee helped me with scholarship assistance, accountability and encouragement," said James. "Any and all the help I asked for – and some I didn't!"

"My family also supported me the entire time I was following my dream of education," James added, saying that his family notices a big difference in him, happier and more motivated than he's ever been.

## Following in their footsteps

Divinity Kindred learned about the Full Employment Council and its services during a presentation given during her HiSET class. She knew she wanted to follow in the footsteps of her mom and her aunt, both nurses, so she signed up for debt-free skills training.

After completing her HiSET, Divinity worked with Full Employment Council counselor Judith Rollison, who helped her find a job as a home health aide. This paid work experience through the FEC allowed Divinity some firsthand experience in nursing. Then, her FEC counselor helped her enroll in the CNA program through FEC training partner MEDS KC, funded by the HITE program. Divinity even received additional financial support that paid for her uniforms and provided gas cards so she could get back and forth to class.



**"Now I'm  
moving  
forward." -  
Divinity  
Kindred**

Once she graduated, her counselor helped her find a full-time job at a local nursing home, allowing Divinity to make more money, working in the field for which she trained. Now, she plans to buy a new car, and hopes to help her mom with house expenses.

"I have a job doing what I love," said Divinity – just like her mom and her aunt before her. "I'm grateful for the opportunity FEC/HITE provided me. It made me change myself and now I'm moving forward."

## "I am gaining additional stability and support for my family."

**- James Kelly**

James really appreciated the classroom discussions, paired with the hands-on-training labs, which prepared him for his new career as a Medical Assistant. He completed his training in December of 2020, at the top of his class, with a 4.0 GPA. He is now employed within his field at Midwest Heart and Vascular.

"I am gaining additional stability and support for my family," said James.

His new career has opened up additional paths for James. "This program has pushed me to consider furthering my education to a higher level, while working at a position I love," he said.

**PROUDLY FUNDED BY**



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# THE GIFTS OF 2020

As challenging as 2020 was for people and our communities, we were also fortunate to see many companies, organizations and individuals stepping up and showing us the best of Kansas City.

Many of our members here at the FEC are frontline workers, with jobs in healthcare and other essential areas. Donations like masks and hand sanitizers kept our people safe as they continued to provide the services our community needs.

Thank you for your continued support.



"As a community, none of us  
can do this alone." – Clyde  
McQueen

## BETTER TOGETHER.

A special thanks to the following:

Bank of America

Black Professionals of Olathe

Blue Cross Blue Shield

Bob Sight Ford

Collision Works Lenexa

Collision Works Olathe

Enterprise Bank

Farmers Insurance

Global IT

Metropolitan Lutheran Ministry

National Auto Body Council

## 2020 HANDED FEC GRADS THE KEYS TO SUCCESS

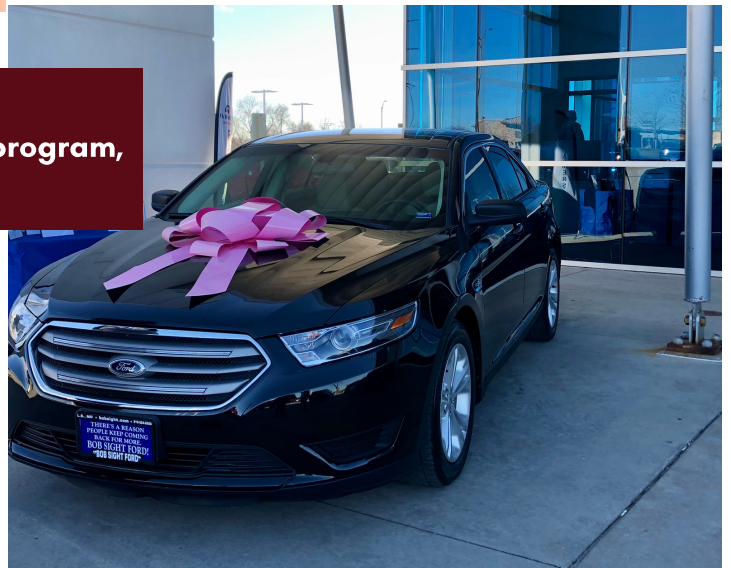


After completing training as a certified nursing assistant through the University of Central Missouri, funded through the Health Profession Opportunity Grant, FEC member Aaliyah Rand (left) was quickly offered a job. However, her new employer was over 20 miles away, and Rand was without a car, or easy access to public transportation. Farmers Insurance and the National Auto Body Council's Recycled Rides Program stepped in, and gifted her with a 2015 Hyundai Sonata, which was refurbished through Collision Works of Olathe.

Farmers Insurance and the National Auto Body Council stepped up again for Monica Goodyear, another FEC member, who completed her training

**A partnership with Farmers Insurance and the National Auto Body Council's Recycled Rides program, changed the lives of two FEC graduates.**

*"Partnerships like these allow us to make a difference in the lives of people who want to work and be successful." - Clyde McQueen, President and CEO*



in Information Technology at SnapIT. The car, a 2015 Ford Taurus SE, was refurbished by Bob Sight Auto Collision. The car enables Goodyear (left), who lives in an area without access to public transportation, to get a job within her field.

In addition, the Black Professionals of Olathe donated \$250 worth of gift certificates.



# A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

THE FULL EMPLOYMENT COUNCIL

Last year brought a lot of challenges to Kansas City, and although 2021 won't be without its own challenges, this year has something else in abundance.

## **Opportunities.**

Here at the Full Employment Council, we've been getting ready for these opportunities. We've looked at what the employers in the region need, and we've found the training that people need to get these jobs that will pay a family-sustaining wage. We're excited about everything we have to offer.



The economic landscape is changed. We need even more people who can work in fields like information technology and healthcare. There is an increased need for advanced manufacturing, and for people with training in logistics, to help move needed goods from one end of the country to the other. Employers need people who have critical thinking skills, and the ability to solve problems.

We've partnered with schools that offer the skills needed for this new economy, in a number of fields that continue to be in demand. Many of these trainings are virtual, allowing for flexibility. Additionally, we've partnered with employers who are ready to hire people once they complete their training.

When COVID shut down the country last year, the Full Employment Council had to make a lot of adjustments. Connecting people with jobs, especially when so many people found themselves without employment, is an essential service. So we made the changes that would allow us to continue to serve our communities to the best of our abilities. We've taken the challenges of 2020, and we've turned them into the tools we need for 2021.

Now, as the country opens back up, slowly and safely, we remain committed to keeping the best of what we learned in 2020 to serve the people of Cass, Clay, Jackson, Ray and Platte counties in 2021.

Until next time,

Clyde McQueen  
President and CEO  
The Full Employment Council