Federal Work Study: Answers to questions you never thought to ask

Shannon Hawkins, Penn State Altoona
and
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When did FWS begin?

- Zechariah Brigden: Harvard 1657
- Land-Grant College Act of 1862
- Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society
  - Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963
  - Economic Opportunity Act of 1964
  - Higher Education Act of 1965

How is FWS funded?

- President’s Budget
- DoE
  - Pell
  - Direct Loans
  - Perkins
  - SEOG/FWS
- FISAP
Why do we care?

Benefits of Participating in FWS

- Positive Academic Impact
- Learn “soft skills”
- Reduce Student Loan Borrowing


Greiner, K., & Girardi, T. (2007). Comments on work-study as an academic tools selection from resource materials provided to the Joint Committee on Education Appropriations of the Iowa General Assembly. *Iowa College Student Aid Commission*, 1-2.
What is a JLD Program

- Locate & develop off-campus job opportunities for students
- 10% of its FWS allocation or $75000
- Federal 80%/School 20%
- Allowable costs
  - Staff Salaries
  - Travel Expenses
  - Printing and mailing of brochures
  - Phone Charges
  - Supplies
  - Advertising
  - Workshops
How can I start a JLD program at my school?

Objectives of the JLD Office at BC3

1. Assist current BC3 students with finding jobs related to their program of study.
2. Serve as a middle-person for on-campus work-study, institutional employment, tutoring, and other grants.
3. Establish relationships with industries to create apprenticeship and practicum opportunities.

Meet the Career Team

The Career Services Staff in the Academic Center for Enrichment (ACE) is here to help you become a professional. Schedule an appointment to discuss:

- Major and career exploration.
- Resume, portfolio, and cover letter creation or review.
- Interview practice.
- Job search.
- More.

Aubrey Rader
Student Employment Specialist
724.287.8711 x8304  aubrey.rader@bc3.edu
Tuesday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Wednesday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Thursday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Appointments can be made with Aubrey to:

- Search for jobs (while a student & post-graduation).
- Career preparation.
- Resume.
- Cover Letter.
- Interviews.
- Portfolios.

Employers can contact Aubrey for:

- Job opportunities for students.
- Help with College Central Network.
- Scheduling on-campus events.
What is America Reads?

Clinton Administration Initiative – America Reads Challenge

- National literacy campaign
  “one million volunteer tutors ready and able to give children the personal attention they need to catch up and get ahead”

- Preschool and Elementary School age children

- Federal Government (Work Study) pays 100% of wages


“The America Reads Challenge Federal Work-Study program is a strong example of how students both give to and receive from the community. The program promotes access to college by helping students finance postsecondary education costs while offering these same students the opportunity to pursue community service. I believe this creates a win-win situation because young learners and communities gain from the services provided, and students who might not ordinarily be able to share in the community service experience can now afford to be involved.” Richard W. Riley, Secretary, U.S. Department of Education
Why America Reads?

- 7% of work study funding allotted for community service
- Give back to & build relationships within the community
- Student benefits
  - Participating in the growth and development of children and their families
    - Increase family literacy skills; helping families learn, bond and communicate
    - Help parents return/enter the work force and be able to provide for their families
  - Earn wages that can be invested back into their education and the local community
  - Gain work experience
- Community Benefits
  - Engage with the college/university
  - Supplement their current work force at no cost
  - Student earnings are invested back into community businesses and organizations
  - Help community members by providing additional resources to families in need
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Expanding Federal Work-Study and Community Service Opportunities
ifap.ed.gov/fwsguide/doc0014_bodyoftext.htm
Who Qualifies to be a Site?

The institution itself, public agencies or private non-profit organizations that offer children and family literacy/educational programs.

- Public Elementary Schools
- Head Start Programs
- Preschools
- Pre-K Programs
- Day Care Centers
- Afterschool Care Centers
- Libraries
- YMCAs
- Churches
- Museums
- Family Services
- Literacy Councils
- Adult Education Centers
- Career Development & Training Programs

* The AR program was expanded in 1998 to include adult & family literacy programs.
What is Required of Student Workers?

- Federal Work Study Award
- Site-based requirements*
  - Clearances**
    - PA Criminal History
    - PA Child Abuse
    - FBI Fingerprinting
  - Health Assessment
  - TB Test
  - Training

* The need for background checks, health assessments and TB tests is not covered by the FWS statute or regulations. However, some institution and State and local jurisdictions require such background checks to be performed. Further, the requirements will vary according to the agency or organization involved.

** Clearances are valid for five years from date of issue (dated 07-01-15 or after). DHS regulated sites may require health assessment renewals every 24 months.
What Can Students Do?

- Help children with reading skills
- Read to the children
- Help children with homework
- Work on educational arts & crafts
- Mentor children through positive encouragement, constructive criticism, leadership and advising
- Be a positive role model
- Work with families to develop plans and strategies to enhance the learning environment and motivate the family
What Can’t Students Do?

- Be alone or interact with minors without authorized adult supervision.
- Transport children to or from the families home or employment site in any vehicle (personal or site owned).
- Take the place of a site’s regularly paid staff nor displace employees at the site.
- Act as a staff assistant or secretary for the site.
  - Student employees are to be involved in mentoring/educating children and their families NOT making photocopies, answering telephones and shredding.
Questions?