

GRASP News

Embracing a new year of post-secondary access

Meet Lisa

Lisa Edwards, a graduate of King William High School, is a rising Sophomore at James Madison University. Not long ago, she was awarded a College Success Scholarship to support her goal of someday becoming a C.P.A. She writes, "I am very grateful for this scholarship because with it I am able to worry less about the financial part of college and focus more on accomplishing my dreams." In total, GRASP recently awarded \$92,250 in scholarships to rising Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors.



Friday, October 7

Please join us for the 7th Annual Reach for the Stars Gala

R.S.V.P. at www.grasp4va.org

We'll celebrate the collective achievements of GRASP's students, supporters, and advisors with an inspiring message from Dr. Glenn DuBois, Chancellor, Virginia's Community Colleges, yummy food and a silent auction fit for every pocketbook.

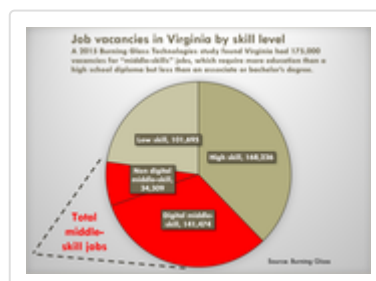


Thank you to sponsors Senator Walter A. Stosch and Dankos, Gordon & Tucker, P.C

Contact Paula Buckley, pbuckley@grasp4virginia.com for information about sponsorship opportunities.

Why is GRASP Important?

Elliot Wayne Eisner was a professor of Art and Education at the Stanford Graduate School of Education and was one of the United States' leading academic minds. This week, Senator Walter A. Stosch shared Eisner's quote with our GRASP



Advisors at their annual training conference, "The primary aim of education is not to enable students to do well in school, but to help them do well in the lives they lead outside of school."

A 2015 Burning Glass Technologies study found Virginia had 175,000 vacancies for "middle-skills" jobs, which require more education than a high school diploma but less than an associate or bachelor's degree.

GRASP's In-School Advising, College Success, and Scholarship programs help students get the education after high school that they need to be productive and fulfilled adults. Advisors help students assemble funding for the full range of options including Certificate Programs, Associate Degrees, and Four Year Degrees.

FAFSA Changes

This year the FAFSA is available for students and parents on October 1. For those attending post-secondary education starting in August of 2017, complete the 2017-2018 FAFSA at www.fafsa.gov.



2015-2016 School Year Results

- 98% of those who met with a GRASP Advisor in their high school report that this improved their understanding of how to pay for education after high school
- 85% say that they completed the FAFSA. Completing the FAFSA form is the cornerstone to securing financial aid assistance for education after high school.
- Average financial aid is \$13,000
- Overall, GRASP Advisors helped students to secure about \$81 million in post-secondary financial aid
- SOAR Virginia® students earned \$464,000 in scholarships funded by Virginia529.



Donate


Please donate \$25, \$50, \$100 or whatever you can afford to help provide GRASP services free of charge to students and families.


*A financial statement is available upon written request from
the Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs*




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