



Kentucky State University

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Green 2 Gold Helps Students Develop Work Ethic, Pay Bills

The Frankfort Regional Medical Center offered Kentucky State University nursing student Taneisha Hampton a job after she worked there two semesters under the Green 2 Gold program.

Devon Archer developed an appreciation for university leadership and KSU's relationship with the Frankfort community during her stint working in the President's Office.

And Brittney Benson, a participant who worked in the Green 2 Gold office, knows expectations of G2G students are high because expectations when they enter the job market will be high.

For these students, the work experience gained in Green 2 Gold was a bonus to the foremost goal of paying their bills.

Expectations High For Green 2 Gold Students

Green 2 Gold puts students to work on and off campus in order to help them pay off balances with the university. The students complete time sheets and receive up to \$1,800 per semester, which is directly credited to student accounts, depending on their financial need.

About \$89,000 was credited to student accounts for the fall 2011 semester for 82 students. Nineteen students were return participants from the 2010-2011 school year.

Arthur McKee is usually the first person a student visits once referred to Green 2 Gold. McKee, the university's employment services liaison, runs the program with the administrative assistance of Annette Bruce in the Office of Career Counseling, Placement and Cooperative Education.

KSU President Mary Evans Sias gave the auxiliary work program the name "Green 2 Gold" and hired McKee in 2010. A similar auxiliary work program had existed for at least a couple of years.

McKee honed policies and procedures, found more placements on campus and found placements off campus.

The program's screening process starts when a student walks through the door, McKee says. Punctuality and appropriate attire are required of G2G students. McKee admits that he is candid with students, correcting any potential problems before students are placed in jobs.

"Here they get the opportunity to learn in a nurturing environment," he says.

There are other requirements. The students must have at least a 2.0 grade point average and a current balance. It is also required that they apply for, and make the most of, their financial aid.

Once McKee has screened students, often talking with them about their career goals, they are sent to meet with potential bosses. Not every student receives a placement that aligns with his or her career goals. But McKee says he plans to add a résumé component soon.

McKee is working to expand the program and create more placement options. University staff and businesses in the Frankfort community have been eager to hire G2G students.

Bev Young, director of Human Resources at Frankfort Regional Medical Center, says the hospital's Green 2 Gold students have been exceptional.

"They're all so friendly and eager to learn," Young says.

Most departments in the hospital have become privy to the program and want the hospital to hire more Green 2 Gold students, she says, adding that the hospital got involved with Green 2 Gold to strengthen its relationship with the university.

Hampton was the hospital's first G2G student employee. Young says the hospital wants to hire her as a nurse once she graduates.

Kendis Smith, counselor and coordinator of KSU's Disability Resource Center, says most of his Green 2 Gold students have been a tremendous help in the office. Green 2 Gold students assist in tasks including note taking, organizing files and converting books to electronic copies.

"I'm sure it's a tell-tale sign about what we produce at the university as a whole," Smith says. "We are producing professionals."

Job Prospects Good For Nursing Student

Junior Taneisha Hampton of Indianapolis, Ind., went to McKee after hearing about Green 2 Gold in a student town hall meeting. The nursing student was placed in the education

department at Frankfort Regional Medical Center, where she became involved in tasks such as arranging CPR classes during the first semester of her sophomore year.

At that time, Hampton thought she wanted a career in a hospital emergency room. But the Green 2 Gold placement exposed her to other possibilities.

Hampton started assisting in the Wound/Ostomy Program at the hospital and decided to strive for a career as a nurse in wound care.

“Some people think it’s gross, but I like it,” she says.

Hampton continued at the hospital during the spring semester as a Green 2 Gold participant.

She got a job as a building assistant on campus for her junior year and was no longer eligible for Green 2 Gold, but she returned to the hospital as a volunteer.

The human resources director praises Hampton for her work ethic and references the hospital’s numerous awards as one of the leading employers in the state. Young says the hospital only accepts the very best employees.

“We want her back,” Young says of Hampton. “And we want her as a nurse.”

Hampton says she’s excited about working at Frankfort Regional, and she is grateful for the Green 2 Gold placement that provided her with her first experience working inside a hospital.

“It was much more than what I expected,” she says.

Business Student Surprised By Cost Of College

Devon Archer says the days leading up to Homecoming were her favorite while working in the President’s Office as a senior business student in Green 2 Gold.

There were so many details to consider, she says. There were invitations to be mailed and planning for events that Archer never knew occurred for alumni, staff and others throughout the community.

“That was an experience in itself,” Archer says. “It was a great learning experience, working in the President’s Office.”

Archer, who hails from Detroit, graduated in December with a bachelor’s degree in business management, then enrolled this spring semester in the Master of Public Administration program.

Archer says she never would have made it through her undergraduate years without the help of Green 2 Gold.



Taneisha Hampton



Devon Archer

“I didn’t realize how much classes cost,” she recalls. “And that helped tremendously.”

Archer says she didn’t know where she’d get the money to finish paying for school. She had little time to think about options, such as finding a job on her own, because the financial aid staff sent her directly to Green 2 Gold.

“I was kind of nervous about working in the

President’s Office at first,” she says.

The staff there welcomed her, however, and immediately made her feel comfortable.

Archer says she didn’t realize how much KSU’s president worked with community leaders and other university presidents on behalf of KSU.

“Just because you don’t see her face all the time – she’s always trying to help us out,” Archer says.

Sophomore Student Appreciates Preparation For Real World

Brittney Benson, a sophomore nursing student, started working in the Green 2 Gold office during the fall 2010 semester. She helped answer telephones, made copies and assisted the students.

Benson did not hesitate when asked about the high expectations of students in Green 2 Gold. They must dress appropriately, she says. And

McKee requires them to show up on time.

“That was one of Mr. McKee’s big things,” Benson says.

Students were also expected to limit cell phone use and to avoid wearing hats.

“He’s trying to get us prepared for the real world,” she says.



Brittney Benson