



College Access Program Provides ACT Test Guidebooks and Testing Information

The Holmes County College Access Program recently donated six copies of The Real ACT Prep Guide to all branches of the Holmes County District Public Library, thanks to funding received from the Ohio College Access Network (OCAN). Daily practice questions are available free on the ACT website (www.act.org), and longer practice tests can also be purchased.

The ACT is a standardized test that is used to compare perspective college students by college admission offices. The test includes four skill areas: English, mathematics, reading and science, with an optional writing test. Students can repeat the test if they are not satisfied with their scores, and can have the highest test scores retained and sent to their selected colleges.

The seating at testing sites is often limited and fills early, so it is important to schedule early— check testing dates and schedule and pay for the ACT online at the ACT website. The next date for the ACT test is October 24, 2009, and it will be given at the Holmes County Higher Education Center, Wooster High School, and Kent State University Tuscarawas in New Philadelphia. The deadline for registration is September 18. The cost for the ACT test is \$32, for the test and writing the cost is \$45. Families with financial need can request a waiver from the high school guidance counselor. The Holmes County Higher Education Center will be offering an ACT test prep class on Tuesday evenings at the Center beginning September 15, 2009 and running six weeks, through October 20, 2009, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The program cost is \$199. In addition to course instruction and materials, each student will receive a printed report indicating areas of strength and weakness with regard to the ACT test. For more information about the ACT test and test prep, please contact a representative at the Higher Education Center in Millersburg at (330) 674-2514.

Students can request that ACT scores be sent to four colleges without charge, and to more schools for a small fee. Most colleges and universities require an ACT or SAT test- check the admissions section of an institution's webpage to determine which test is desired. Some community colleges do not require the ACT for admissions, but do require it for scholarships or placement into certain programs or



classes. “A higher ACT score can mean more money in scholarships,” stated Darla Stitzlein, Executive Director of the Holmes County Education Foundation. “According to one local university website financial aid calculator, if a student takes the ACT test more than once and obtains a composite score of just one point higher and he or she has the required GPA, this may result in an additional \$3,000 more per year in scholarships. Being prepared and testing well can have significant results when paying for college.”

For more information regarding the ACT, or if you have specific questions about college access, contact Ann Gastier, College Access Advisor, at (330) 674-1255, or visit the college access website at www.ohiocan.org/holmes.