



*Delta Educational  
Opportunity Center*

A Federal **TRIO** Program

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ANNUAL  
REPORT



*Delta Educational Opportunity Center,  
a Federal TRIO program*

*Center for Community & Economic Development  
Graduate and Continuing Studies*



**LASHEKA DENISE BELL**  
Academic Counselor

**LAKISHA L. BUTLER**  
Project Director

**DR. BEVERLY MOON**  
Director, Center for Community & Economic Development  
Dean, Graduate & Continuing Studies and Research

# MEET THE STAFF



**LaSHEKA DENISE BELL**

Academic Counselor

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lbell@deltastate.edu

“I’m a mother of a 6-year-old, and I’ve been married for almost 11 years. I’m a 2000 graduate of West Bolivar High School and a 2004 graduate of MS State University. As Academic Counselor for Delta Educational Opportunity Center, I enjoy providing assistance to our participants, their families, and our partners. It gives me great joy to be able to work closely with participants by facilitating workshops and working with them one-on-one as well as in groups. I truly believe that by increasing education we will increase success in the MS Delta.”



**LAKISHA L. BUTLER**

Project Director

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kbutler@deltastate.edu

“With a Bachelor and Master of Science in Business Administration-Management and nearly 15 years of experience in office and program administration and management, directing DEOC has been an amazing experience. From development and planning to implementation and revision, I enjoy working with our Academic Counselor and the communities we serve. Each day is new and different. For every challenge, there has been a greater success. I have learned so much and am very thankful for this opportunity. My professional mission mirrors that of the program, but my personal mission is to teach everyone whom we touch that faith, determination, and resilience will get you there. The question is: where is your there?”

# OVERVIEW

The mission of the Delta Educational Opportunity Center (DEOC) is to increase the awareness of postsecondary educational opportunities available to low-income and economically-disadvantaged adults, 19 and older, who desire to pursue a postsecondary education and to assist with postsecondary institution enrollment. DEOC further seeks to provide like services to current high school students who cannot be adequately served by Talent Search, another federal TRIO program. Our vision is to become the networking hub for all Delta area Adult Basic Education programs and colleges/universities for increased enrollment in postsecondary institutions.

**Program Office:** Federal TRIO Programs

**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA):** 84.066A

**Award:** PO66A16O424 - DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY (INC)

**Program Type:** Discretionary/Competitive Grants

**Also Known As:** EOC, TRIO (This is one of eight TRIO programs.)

**OMB Approval No:** 1840-0830 (Expiration Date: 12/31/2019)

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Educational Opportunity Centers program provides counseling and information on college admissions to qualified adults who want to enter or continue a program of postsecondary education. The program also provides services to improve the financial and economic literacy of participants. An important objective of the program is to counsel participants on financial aid options, including basic financial planning skills, and to assist in the application process. The goal of the EOC program is to increase the number of adult participants who enroll in postsecondary education institutions.

## TYPES OF SERVICES

Services include: academic advice, personal counseling, and career workshops; information on postsecondary education opportunities and student financial assistance; help in completing applications for college admissions, testing, and financial aid; coordination with nearby postsecondary institutions; media activities designed to involve and acquaint the community with higher education opportunities; tutoring; mentoring; education or counseling services designed to improve the financial and economic literacy of students; and programs and activities previously mentioned that are specially designed for students who are limited English proficient, students from groups that are traditionally underrepresented in postsecondary education, students with disabilities, students who are homeless children and youths, students who are in foster care or are aging out of the foster care system or other disconnected students.

*Services are provided to 1,000 participants in 12 Delta Counties: Coahoma, Tunica, Quitman, Tallahatchie, Leflore, Sunflower, Bolivar, Washington, Humphreys, Holmes, Sharkey, and Issaquena.*

## Legislation

The Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, Subpart 2, Chapter 1, Sections 402A and 402F  
20 U.S.C. 1070a-16

## Regulations

Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 644

Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), 34 CFR Parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 82, 84-86, 97-99

## Guidance

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Uniform Guidance (aka Super Circular)

## UNDERSTANDING THE PROGRAM

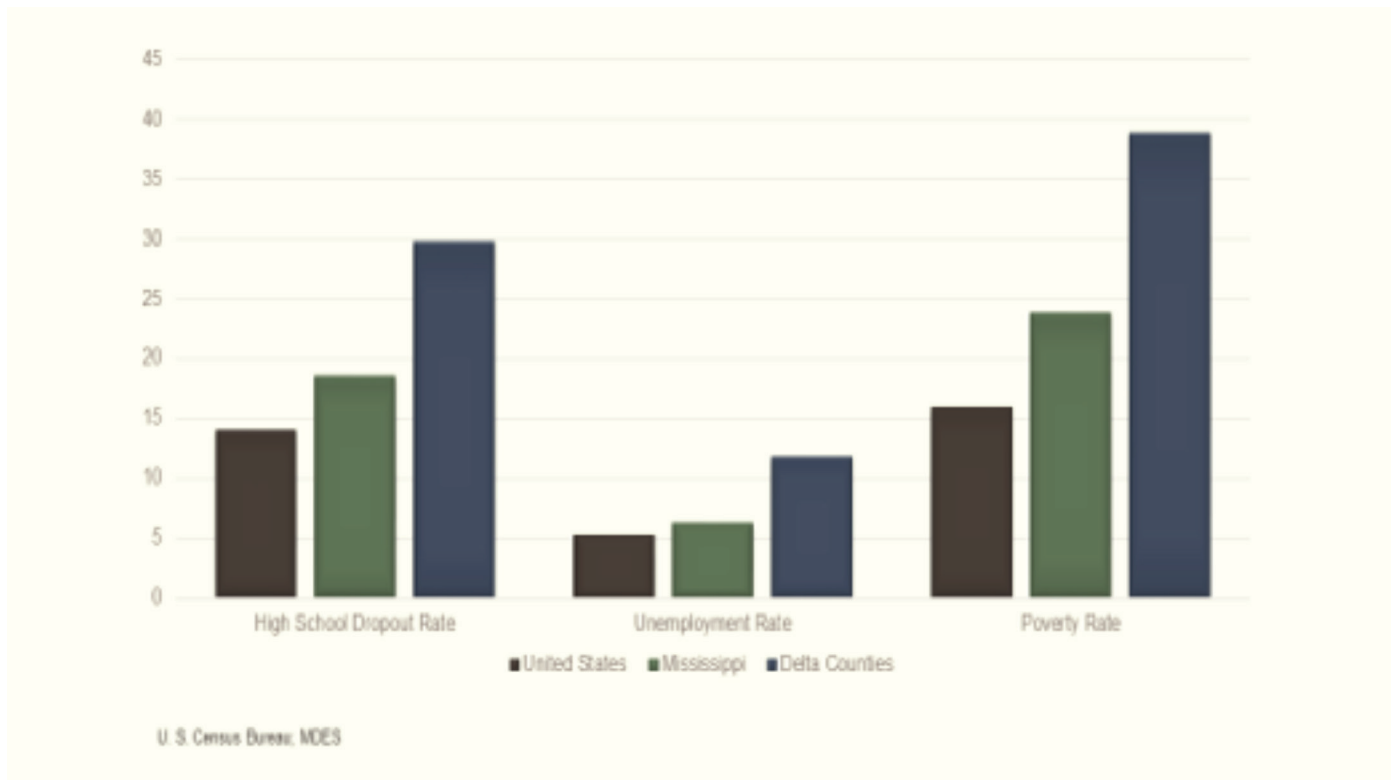
The Delta Educational Opportunity Center (DEOC) is an educational access program funded by the US Department of Education (ED) Higher Education Act of 1965. The purpose of the Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) Program was originally funded in 1972 to provide information regarding financial and academic assistance available to individuals who desire to pursue a program of postsecondary education; provide assistance to individuals in applying for admission to institutions that offer programs of postsecondary education, including assistance in preparing necessary applications for use by admissions and financial aid officers; and provide information regarding financial and economic literacy to participants.

There are 142 EOCs currently funded in the U.S. serving over 199,000 participants. The Delta Educational Opportunity Center (DEOC) is newly funded to serve 1,000 participants each year. DEOC is part of the TRIO programs. DEOC does not represent any one college but represents and advocates for the participant with all colleges and universities.

## WHO ARE WE?

DEOC is a participant-focused center of excellence that serves as an invaluable resource for underrepresented and disconnected populations. We seek to empower families in the Mississippi Delta who have continually suffered generational oppression for lack of knowledge. We are advocates for change who actively bridge the gap between dreams and achievements. DEOC cultivates hope where despair once lived and ruled. We share. We connect. We learn. We grow. We change lives.

## WHY DO WE SERVE?





# WHAT **PARTNERS** ARE SAYING...



**T.J. WALKER**

Director of North MS  
Get2College Center,  
Southaven

“The partnership between the North MS Get2College Center and the Delta Educational Opportunity Center has been a very pleasant and rewarding experience. In a span of five months, we have connected, collaborated and kicked off a substantial working relationship. The partnership began with simple conversations about the possibilities and has flourished to us having a successful FAFSA Completion event at South Delta High School. Before the FAFSA event, we joined forces for an intensive FAFSA training workshop led by the Get2College team. We pride ourselves in offering quality advising to students in MS and we are proud to have connected with the DEOC to further spread our model to the MS delta region. This newly developed relationship has offered benefits to both parties. We look forward to working with DEOC in the future. Students are receiving high quality services from Ms. Lakisha Butler and Mrs. Lasheka Bell. We would advise more students and other community organizations to take advantage of the great services they offer.”

**get2college**  
WOODWARD HINES EDUCATION FOUNDATION



**JON DELPERDANG**

Executive Director,  
Greenville Renaissance Scholars  
Board Member,  
Rosedale Freedom Project, Freedom  
Project Network & Delta Force

“It has been wonderful working with the Delta Educational Opportunity Center! Both Ms. Butler and Mrs. Bell have gone above and beyond in their efforts to coordinate programs that I have the chance to facilitate. Often times before I even ask a question they’ve already provided information on event details, the scope of the program and additional details that make DEOC programs successful. I’m happy to be part of the DEOC, and I’m energized by upcoming efforts to serve students throughout the Mississippi Delta.”

**GREENVILLE**  
**RENAISSANCE**  
**SCHOLARS**  
Knowledge for the love of it

# WHAT **PARTICIPANTS** ARE SAYING...



“DEOC is very helpful every time they show up at Gentry High School. There were things that I didn’t have for school, and they gave me what I needed to have. I thank DEOC for all of their help.”

**CHELSEA RICE**

Gentry High School  
Indianola

“I’m thankful that the staff of DEOC encouraged, supported, and believed in me. It’s time to go back to school and make a better life for myself and my family.”

**OLLIE HUGHES, JR.**

Vocational Training School  
Jackson



“I’m very excited about school, and I am forever grateful for the services that are offered by DEOC.”

**ANQUANETTE LEWIS**

Mississippi State University  
Starkville



# FAQ'S

## **WHAT IS DELTA EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY CENTER (DEOC)?**

Delta Educational Opportunity Center is a federal TRIO program designed to increase the awareness of postsecondary educational opportunities available to low-income and economically-disadvantaged adults, 19 and older, who desire to pursue a postsecondary education and to assist with postsecondary institution enrollment. DEOC also provides services to high school students, grades 9-12, who are not enrolled in Talent Search, another TRIO program. DEOC serves families in Bolivar, Coahoma, Tunica, Quitman, Tallahatchie, Leflore, Sunflower, Washington, Humphreys, Holmes, Sharkey, and Issaquena counties.

## **WHAT SERVICES DOES DEOC OFFER?**

Participants can take advantage of a variety of services: GED/HiSET Referrals and Test Vouchers, ACT Registration and Prep, Postsecondary Application Assistance, and FAFSA & MS State Aid Assistance. DEOC also offers several workshops, including Job Readiness, Study Skills, Financial Literacy for Families and Military Personnel, and Computer Technology.

## **HOW ARE SERVICES DELIVERED?**

Workshops are scheduled at different locations throughout our 12-county region. Upon confirmation of eligibility, all participants receive a Participant Education Plan (PEP) that outlines requested services, dates, times, and locations. Participants also receive reminders via e-mail or text message.

## **HOW MUCH ARE SERVICES?**

All services offered by DEOC are completely FREE!

## **AM I ELIGIBLE?**

To qualify, you must:

- Reside in the 12-county coverage area,
- Be a U.S. citizen,
- Be at least 9th grade and not enrolled in TRIO Talent Search, and
- Not have completed a four-year degree.

## **HOW DO I SIGN UP?**

There are several ways to sign up. Applications are available on the web at <http://www.deltastate.edu/cced/delta-educational-opportunity-center/>. You may attend a workshop or event in your area, and sign up on site. Just find us on Facebook @ Cced Programs for latest announcements. You may also contact DEOC staff at 662.846.4334 or 662.846.4337 to receive an application by mail, or visit us at 1417 College Street, Cleveland, MS.

## **I NEED HELP WITH THE COLLEGE APPLICATION AND FINANCIAL AID PROCESS. DO I HAVE TO APPLY TO DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY TO RECEIVE YOUR HELP?**

NO! We assist you in applying to institutions of your choice. We do not recruit for any particular university or college.

## **IS THERE A LIMIT ON HOW MANY WORKSHOPS I CAN ATTEND OR HOW LONG I CAN BE IN THE PROGRAM?**

Once you become a program participant, you can attend as many workshops and events as you'd like. You are continually eligible for services until you receive a four-year degree.

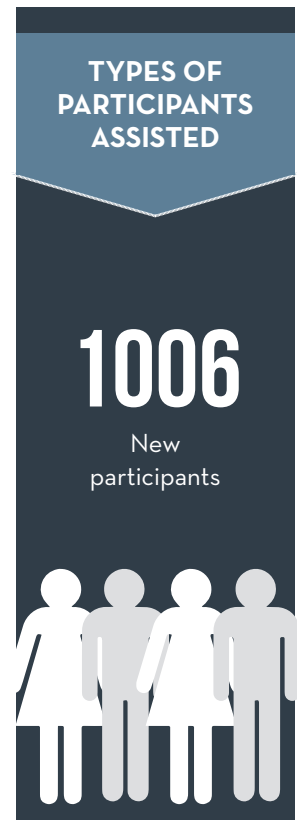
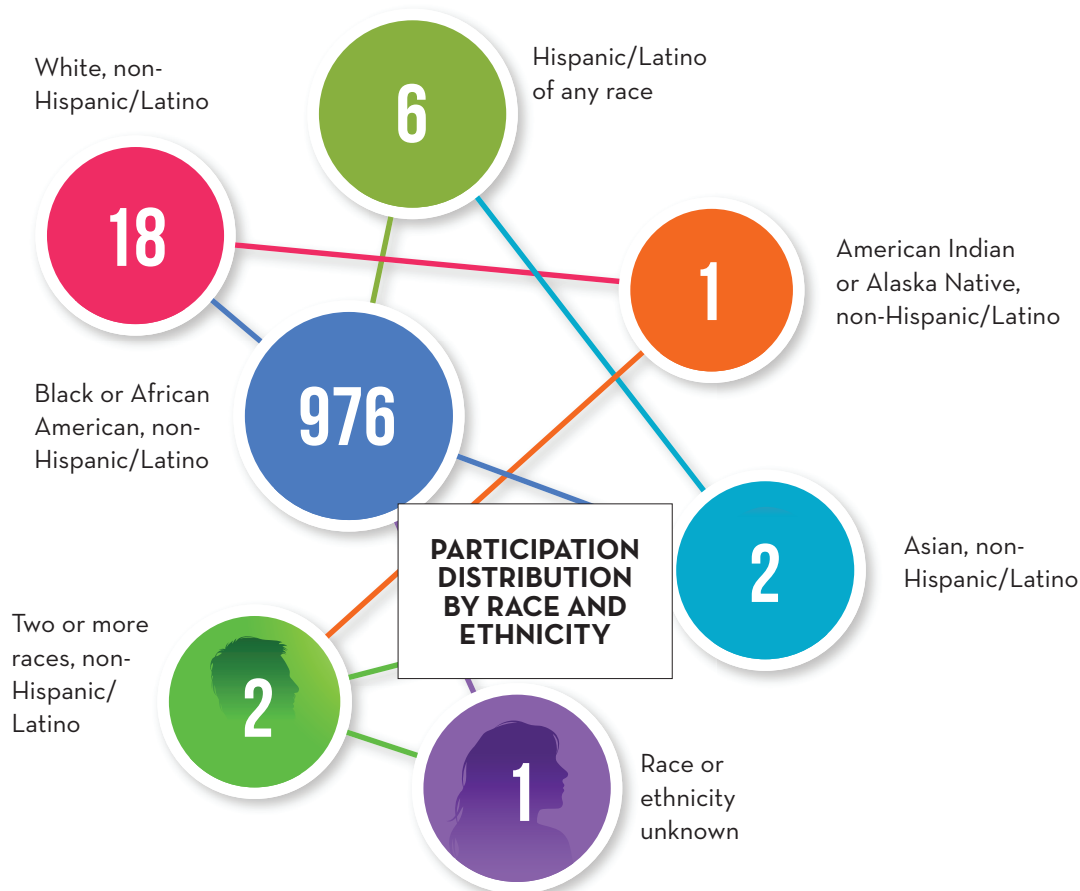
## **OH, NO! I MISSED A WORKSHOP SCHEDULED IN MY AREA, AND I REALLY NEED THE SERVICE. WHAT DO I DO?**

You can contact us for information regarding the next scheduling of the same workshop in a nearby location, or DEOC staff can schedule a one-on-one session with you to deliver a service. Don't worry. We'll work with you.

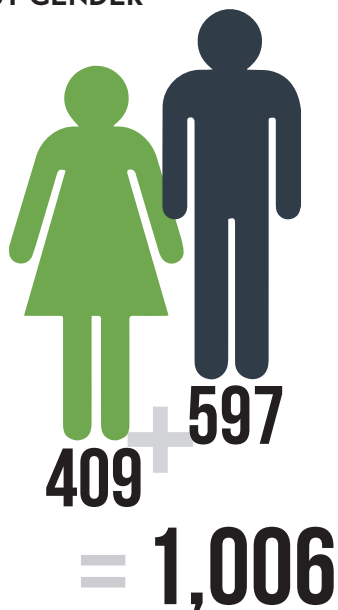


# OCTOBER 2016 – AUGUST 2017

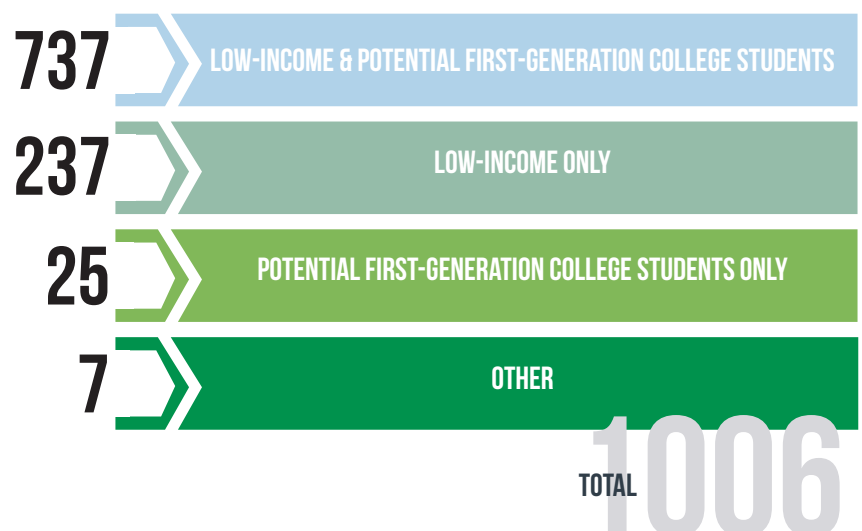
## PARTICIPANTS FUNDED TO SERVE: 1000



### PARTICIPATION DISTRIBUTION BY GENDER



### PARTICIPATION DISTRIBUTION BY ELIGIBILITY



# CONTACT HOURS

General Information  
Sessions

**123 HOURS**

High School  
Survival Skills

**166.28 HOURS**

Academic  
Counseling

**244.92 HOURS**

## POSTSECONDARY READINESS

ACT Registration/Prep

**166.28 HOURS**

Admissions Assistance

**5.25 HOURS**

Financial Aid Assistance

**11.02 HOURS**

College Survival Skills

**13.87 HOURS**

## JOB READINESS

Adult Basic Education  
Workshops/Referrals

**10.33 HOURS**

Resume Writing

**15.58 HOURS**

Career Assessments

**9.15 HOURS**



# CONTACT HOURS

## SOFT SKILLS TRAINING

Critical Thinking/  
Test Taking Skills

**13.33 HOURS**

Time Management/  
Study Skills

**140.9 HOURS**

Computer Technology

**5.67 HOURS**

Financial Literacy

**6.18 HOURS**

Life Skills/  
Personal Counseling

**23.88 HOURS**





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