

Eastern Illinois University

## The Keep

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Belonging, A photovoice project: Exhibit

Belonging, A photovoice project

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### Economic | Education

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# Economic Stability



Me DJ'ing at a wedding because that is the business I have been doing since 2015. There are pros and cons to having your own business, but I try my best to overcome the cons and fight through. I enjoy doing what I do, which is making people dance and have a great time.



Being a single mom and working full time, a budget is a necessary way of life. At the end of the month, I sit down to create a budget and go over my monthly planner. It helps me stay financially organized while being an active college student with extra expenses.



Charleston, IL  
Car repair is an expense.



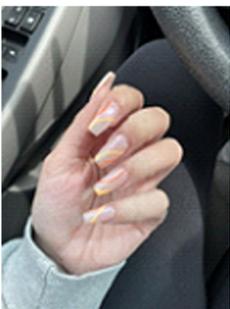
This is Mattoon's County Market. I work here in the meat department part-time while I'm in school then go to regular time during the summers.



Access to resources that are necessary for one's existence and well-being can be characterized as economic stability.



This picture of me with Neoga Ambulance represents how I set a goal in life and achieved that goal of becoming a paramedic. It took 2 years of schooling and 500+ of clinical hours but every day I get to wake up and do my dream job.



Nails are my one thing I reward myself with biweekly, and a reward to myself for going to work and school. A barrier sometimes would be a smaller paycheck that doesn't allow me the budget room for them, however I am very happy that I can do this for myself and it provides me peace and quiet as they are being done.



Charleston, IL - Goodwill  
Access to inexpensive clothing.



Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) – a job few want to do but is so high in need. People often say it takes a special kind of person to do this job. It takes many skills, knowledge, and equipment, but most importantly, it takes a servant heart. CNAs do the job that no one else wants to do. They take care of people when they need it most.



Mc Calla, Alabama  
Out of work migrant workers sit and wait for day jobs. Most of those waiting for work lived in temporary housing like campers. Besides housing, these men lacked health insurance and could not afford to seek any medical attention if they were to become ill or hurt.



This photo shows two older people waiting at a bus stop in a subdivision in West Champaign. Having access to public transportation allows people who might not be able to afford a vehicle the ability to get around.



Charleston, IL - Post Office  
Every person with a registered address receives mail. Without this office, we would have many people without a job, and we would have a much lower economic stability within our community.



Having family members serving and seeing their lives gave me inspiration to pursue the military as a career. As a result, I made the decision to enlist and continue to make steps towards furthering my career in the military. Currently, I am in route to become an officer and in hopes of becoming an active duty soldier.



Dominican Republic  
Children are not guaranteed to go to school because in some parts of the country, a uniform is required to go to school, but because of their financial status not everyone is able to afford a uniform. Most of the clothes that the children wear are donations. We were told that the majority of people who are born within a batey will spend their life there.



Charleston, IL  
This house was repossessed due to lack of payments. Someone lost a home in our community due to their inability to pay.

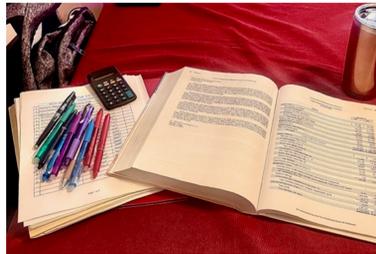
# Education



Chicago, IL - Children of Peace school provides education for Deaf children.



It is important to me that I am very organized. Being organized with my studies helps me feel like I am not drowning in schoolwork and that I am capable of getting all my homework finished to the best of my ability. This helps my mental health by keeping me on track and not being constantly anxious about what all I have due and not having to worry about forgetting to do an assignment.



I received my associate degree in science in 2011, but I decided in 2021 that I wanted to achieve my Bachelor's degree. Most nights after my daughter goes to bed, I am buried in studies. I look forward to continuing my education growing my knowledge for a new career path.



Charleston, IL - Charleston Community Early Learning Center

Unbilled Account Activity	Effective Date Term	Description	Charge	Payment Post Date
	Nov 30, 2022	Spring 2023 Health Service Fee	\$156.00	Nov 30, 2022
	Nov 30, 2022	Spring 2023 Tuition, UG, resident	\$2,912.67	Nov 30, 2022
	Nov 30, 2022	Spring 2023 Activity Fee	\$155.92	Nov 30, 2022
	Nov 30, 2022	Spring 2023 Athletics Fee	\$173.64	Nov 30, 2022
	Nov 30, 2022	Spring 2023 Campus Improvement Fee	\$221.25	Nov 30, 2022
	Nov 30, 2022	Spring 2023 Technology Fee	\$48.00	Nov 30, 2022
	Nov 30, 2022	Spring 2023 Grant-In-Aid/SEOS Fee	\$227.64	Nov 30, 2022
	Nov 30, 2022	Spring 2023 Tuition, UG, resident, Cont Ed	\$1,941.78	Nov 30, 2022
	Nov 30, 2022	Spring 2023 Legal Service Fee	\$5.45	Nov 30, 2022
	Nov 30, 2022	Spring 2023 Stu Recreation Center Fee	\$81.48	Nov 30, 2022
	Nov 30, 2022	Spring 2023 Textbook Rental Fee	\$146.25	Nov 30, 2022
	Nov 30, 2022	Spring 2023 Union Bond Revenue Fee	\$484.20	Nov 30, 2022
	Nov 30, 2022	Spring 2023 Student Insurance Fee	\$109.95	Nov 30, 2022
	Nov 29, 2022	Spring 2023 Rooms/Board - Spring	\$4,794.00	Nov 29, 2022

EIU tuition bill for one semester. I feel as if tuition cost could be lowered and more affordable for students.



Fernwood, IL - Olive-Harvey Community College  
City Of Chicago community colleges are located in most lower-income neighborhoods.



Lincoln Trail College LTC is the fifth leading community college in the state and shares its theatre, pool, and other facilities, such as a gym facility, with the local community as well.



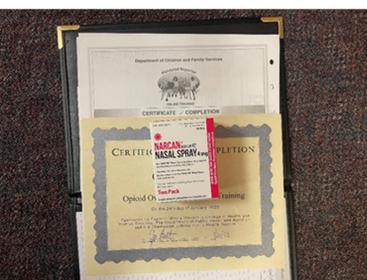
Charleston, IL - Klehm Hall  
This hall is the main hub for the Department of Public Health & Nutrition.



I know it's probably pretty cliché but going back to school truly has made improvements to my intellectual health. Since going to school here at EIU, I've been able to engage with things that actually interest me. I've learned to think more critically and most importantly I've been stimulated by the things I've been learning.



Robinson, IL - Embarass River Basin Agency Head Start



Certifications and trainings improve education and response to stress and traumas, especially ones like these – Mandated Reporter and Narcan training. These improve the safety of the community. It is amazing what education can do.



Charleston, IL - Jefferson Elementary School



Brookport, IL - Little Free Library  
"Take a book, share a book"



Receipt for six textbooks. At some colleges this could cost the student upwards of \$500, but at Eastern Illinois University, textbook rental is included in our tuition. Having access to textbook rental can save students money.



Coles County, IL



Without scholarships, many people would not be able to get a higher education. They are amazing. Without a higher education, many people may not be involved and have the resources they have now – financially, organizations, education, literacy, language, skills, knowledge, careers, friendships, and more. Everything in life goes hand-in-hand. It all affects each other.