

Colleges That Work

Students at these colleges have jobs as well as classwork. They find that the combination leads to success.

“You could work your way through and get paid.” Those words from a high school teacher sounded like magic to senior Ken Arrington.

For Arrington, the funds for college just weren't there. His father is disabled, and his mother is unable financially to help.

The prospect of hard work in exchange for an education didn't daunt the Marshall, N.C., boy. He had always worked at home or for neighbors in his native tobacco and cow country.

Berea College in Berea, Ky.; Berry College in Rome, Ga.; and The College of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, Mo., are three of a handful of colleges throughout the nation that emphasize brawn as much as brain. Here, students who otherwise could not go to college exchange labor for an education—the old “pull yourself up by your bootstraps” idea.

It's an idea that works. “If you can afford to pay for an education, you

can't come to Berea,” emphasizes Bill Ramsay, vice president for labor and student life. “Very rarely do we have alumni's children come because our alumni are too successful. That tells the story. We are breaking the poverty cycle.”

Berea College

Berea College, located 40 miles south of Lexington, Ky., was founded in 1855 by John G. Fee, a nondenominational minister who wanted a school open to students of any race, religion, or financial status.

Berea charges no tuition, but students are required to pay for room, board, health and activity fees, books, and personal expenses. Room, board, and fees are \$2,375 per year and are met entirely or in part by earnings in the college's work program.

Eligibility is determined by family income. The maximum income allowed for a four-member family is

\$30,000. All Berea students work a minimum of 10 hours a week in one of the 138 departments.

Among the jobs from which to choose are positions with the Boone Tavern Hotel, the college farm, or the handmade crafts industry.

Berry College

This institution was formed in 1902 by Martha Berry, an heiress who wanted to educate the children of her poor mountain neighbors. Her philosophy for the school was to educate the child's heart through religion, head through academics, and hands through labor.

The 26,000-acre college, located about 65 miles north of Atlanta, claims to have the largest campus in the U.S. Students from families of all levels of income are accepted.

The work program at Berry is not mandatory, but about 85% of the students do work. There are 120 job classifications. The school guarantees

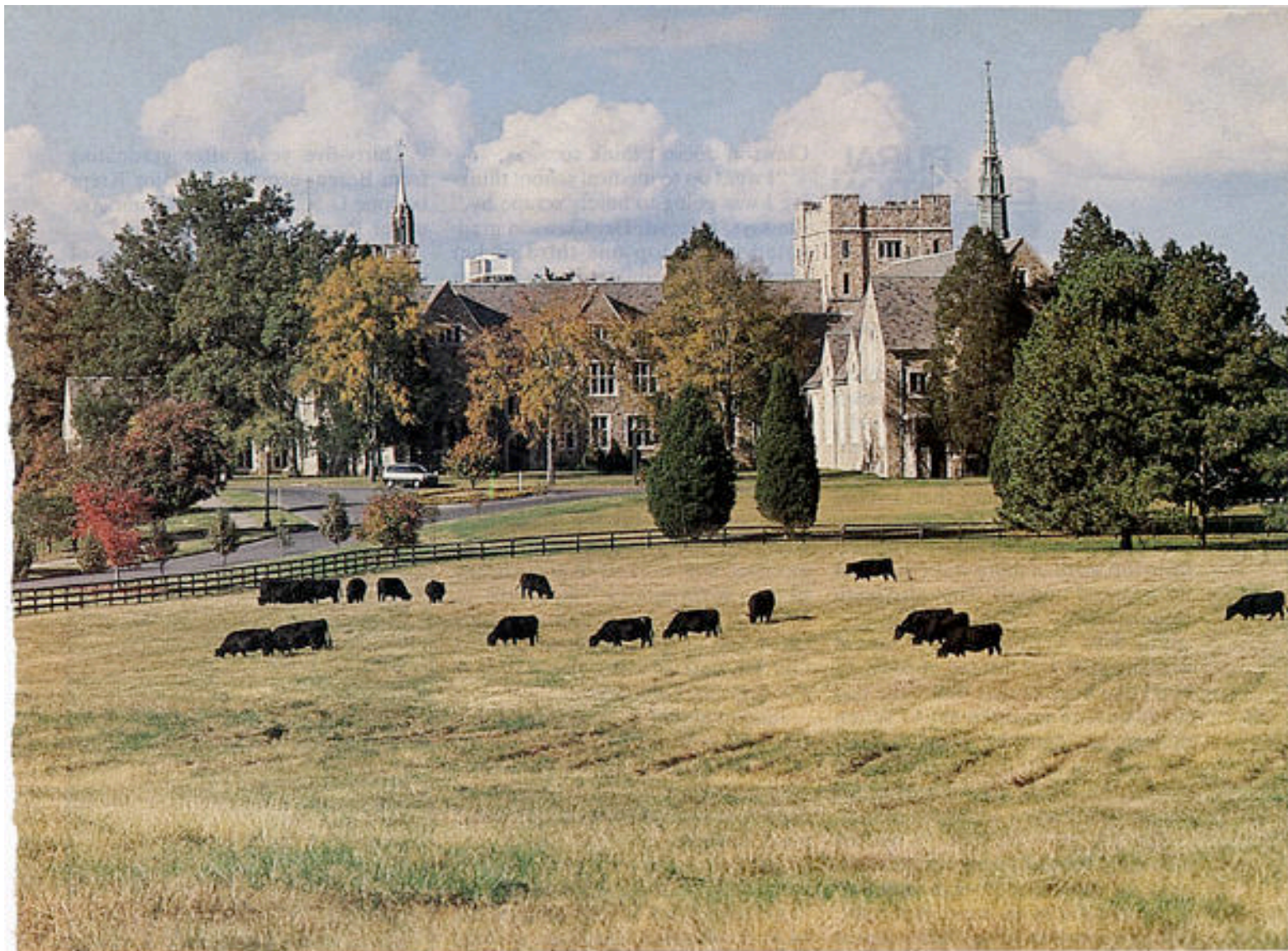


(Above) Good work habits and attitudes are promoted through work experience at Berea College. Students also learn more about their particular talents, interests, and limitations.

Photo: Kara Beth Brunner

(Right) Berea College held the first crafts fair in the South in 1896. The school and its students still have a reputation for making handcrafts. Photo: Bruce Roberts





(Above) Berry College claims that its 26,000 acres of scenic beauty in the Appalachian foothills of Georgia make up the world's largest campus. Photo: Vann Cleveland

(Left) Student workers are important in all of Berry's work positions, including its agricultural operations. Photo: Joe Benton



every full-time resident student the opportunity to work.

The salaries are paid directly to the students, who may use them to meet their educational expenses. These expenses include \$5,880 per year for tuition and fees.

"We feel that if we can provide a program strong enough to have all students *want* to work, that's taking it even a step further [than requiring them to work]," explains John Henseisen, dean of work at Berry.

The College of the Ozarks

This college, located 40 miles south of Springfield, Mo., was begun as a boarding school for elementary school pupils by Presbyterian minister John Forsythe. In 1964, the 930-acre site overlooking Lake Taneycomo became a four-year college.

No tuition is charged, but students pay \$800 per semester for their room and board.

"That fee can be worked off in the summertime by taking a 40-hour-a-week summer job on campus," says public relations director Camille Howell.

During the fall and spring semesters, a student is required to work 15 hours a week at a campus job, choosing from 65 job types.

"As a rule of thumb, for a family of four, the estimated income limit should be about \$27,000 a year," ex-

plains Howell. "But some people look wealthy on paper because they have a lot of land, when in fact their income is not very high." So exceptions have been made.

All three schools have strong religious backgrounds. Berea and Berry ardently emphasize multid denominational church activities. Although students attending The College of the Ozarks are not necessarily Presbyterian, the school is affiliated with that church, and the students are required to attend chapel services.

"We're not really a church school, but we do emphasize what we see as basic, solid Christian values," Howell says.

With no income from tuition, the schools are dependent on the generosity of patrons. "We appeal to the self-made type who has come from a hard background and succeeded,"

says Howell, "and who now wants to help somebody else have that same chance."

Heiress Martha Berry garnered support for Berry College from such notables as Theodore Roosevelt, Thomas Edison, and Henry Ford.

"I felt Martha Berry could make better use of my money than I could myself," Ford is quoted as saying.

Supporters say the students benefit from the work in more ways than just the financial tradeoff. They also learn responsibility.

For Ken Arrington, that meant working with pigs instead of cows. "I don't like hogs all that well," the boy from bovine country says. When pushed, he admits he detested hogs. But working with them was the only job on the Berea farm available for the ag major when he began school.

The job grew on him. "I started maturing, started taking responsibilities," he explains. "I began to understand that the swine were important, just as important as any other aspect of the farm."

Does academia suffer when schools emphasize work? The College of the Ozarks graduate Candy

Clawson doesn't think so.

"I went on to medical school thinking I was going to barely scrape by," she says. Instead, Dr. Clawson graduated in the top one-third of her class. Every graduate of the college who has applied to medical school has been accepted.

Paul Smith, a 1948 graduate of Berry College, attests to the benefits of a hard-working college career. "There really wasn't a lot of time to frolic around as so many college students do now," he says.

Smith, an ag major, worked on the farms and kept up the grounds at Berry. "I also got up at three in the morning and worked in the kitchen to earn extra money," he recalls.

For 31 years, he was an Extension agent and director in Floyd County, Ga. He now is a Representative in the Georgia Legislature.

Juanita Morris Kreps's story is similar. The Blackey, Ky., native washed dishes, costumed drama majors, and served as a receptionist and typist while a student. She didn't mind working.

"At Berea, the work ethic is everywhere," says Kreps, a Berea trustee. "One senses that it's the thing to do, to work, because everybody is doing it. I worked a little longer and harder, perhaps, than most students, because after my freshman year I didn't have support from outside."

Thirty-five years after graduating from Berea, economics major Kreps became U.S. Secretary of Commerce under President Jimmy Carter.

She is just one of thousands of people who are realizing their potential because there was a college that worked for them.

By NANCY DORMAN-HICKSON

Scouting for Colleges

For more information about some colleges that have strong student work programs, contact the following:

Alice Lloyd College

Purpose Rd.
Pippa Passes, KY 41844
606-368-2101

Berea College

CPO 2316
Berea, KY 40404
606-986-9341

Berry College

Mount Berry Station
Rome, GA 30149
404-232-5374

Blackburn College

College Ave.
Admissions Office
Carlinville, IL 62626
217-854-3231

The College of the Ozarks

Point Lookout, MO 65726
417-334-6411

Warren Wilson College

701 Warren Wilson Rd.
Swannanoa, NC 28778
1-800-532-5372 (outside state)
1-800-727-1894 (inside state)



(Above) The College of the Ozarks is a 930-acre campus on the banks of Lake Taneycomo in the heart of the Ozarks.

(Right) Students at The College of the Ozarks are required to work at least 15 hours a week at a campus job. Photos: David McCormick

