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Monique Gilchrist, Graduate Philadelphia program manager (standing in center), helps students file their FAFSA forms.

**Part 4: Another Chance for a College Degree
by KYW's John McDevitt**

With so many people out of work, having a college degree is essential in many cases just to land a job interview. One unique center is providing free services to help those who dropped out of college to return to school and get that degree.

(Phone ringing) "Good morning, Graduate Philadelphia. How can I help you?"

Mallory Goode made one of those calls not too long ago to [Graduate Philadelphia](http://www.graduatephiladelphia.org), at 9th and Market Streets in center city. He has credits from two different colleges, but no degree. He's out of work and says the center helped put him back on track, giving him guidance to return to college so he can pursue a career in criminal justice: "I decided to go after that degree again."

He says there was a bonus, too: "I received a laptop. And in addition to that I received \$400 for books and toward my tuition, which was very helpful."

Hadass Sheffer is the executive director of Graduate Philadelphia: "What we see from research, and this is research for Philadelphia, is that getting a college degree almost doubles your income potential. Almost doubles it -- 90 percent more!"

Kim Stephens is the director of higher education partnerships and services. She says they have a number of programs: "Enhancement workshops, information sessions. In addition, the center provides financial aid workshops."

Stephens reminds those applying for financial aid in Pennsylvania that the deadline is May 1st: "Individuals have the opportunity to receive up to \$10,000 in federal and state aid."

More than 1,200 people registered with the center since it opened its doors one year ago. Fifteen colleges are now partnered with Graduate Philadelphia.

For more information, go to www.graduatephiladelphia.org.