Chipola studies enrollment increases

Chipola College officials are looking for enrollment trends by comparing profiles of the last two academic years. A report issued by the college Planning Office compares the total annual enrollments in 2007-08 with 2008-09 to determine where the greatest fluctuations have occurred.

Enrollment Growth in BS and AA Degree Programs

Dean of Enrollment Services Dr. Jayne Roberts said enrollment in BS degree programs increased from 69 students last year to 145 this year. “That’s a 110% increase in one year,” said Roberts. She said there are likely several reasons, one of which is that area residents are learning about the availability of our eight Bachelor’s degrees at Chipola. She also said budget cuts have caused universities to accept fewer transfer students into upper-division programs and that attending Chipola is much less expensive for local students who cannot afford to relocate to complete their degrees.

“I’m convinced that one of the main reasons is that so many of our BS degree seeking students are ‘place bound,’ and many are employed while attending college. Every week I talk with someone who years ago earned part or all of an AA degree and wanted to earn a Bachelor’s degree but could not relocate for two or more years because of home, family, and work responsibilities,” said Roberts. “We are offering these students a chance to achieve that goal, and they are taking us up on the offer.”

The number of Associate in Arts degree seeking students increased from 1,784 to 1,933, an increase of 8.35%. Roberts cited several possible explanations, including the economic downturn and people’s need for retraining to become more employable.

She also said, “I think the availability of Bachelor’s degrees might be causing some of this enrollment increase.” She said that more students are willing to enroll and remain enrolled because they now know they can finish right here at Chipola. Roberts also cited the likelihood that more students are persisting and re-enrolling as a result of the college’s Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) and Supplemental Instruction. “It will be a while before we know whether students are re-enrolling at a significant rate, but it makes sense that our headcount would increase because we are retaining more students who used to leave while also bringing in the first-time students we have always enrolled.”

Full Time Equivalency (FTE) Enrollment

As of February 13, 2009, the college had enrolled 100 more students than last year. “That’s almost a 4% annual increase in headcount,” said Roberts. She also confirmed that other recent reports indicate a 13% increase in Full Time Equivalency (FTE) for this 2009 spring semester compared to last year’s 2008 spring

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Fired up

The Chipola College Firefighting Academy recently conducted a Liquid Petroleum gas burn at the Reddoch Annex. Candidates participated in drills to extinguish LP gas fires. The next Firefighting class begins in mid July. For information, call Martin Fowler at (850) 718-2483.
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enrollment. FTE is an average calculation of the number of hours students take. “This means we have more students on campus and they are taking more classes.”

Roberts also said this year’s enrollment is expected to increase even more before the end of the spring term because Workforce Development programs have open-enrollment options. She said this additional enrollment is driven largely by Public Service programs, which vary from year to year because of the training needs of local and state agencies. “We don’t always know which training or retraining will be requested,” concluded Roberts.

Enrollment Trends Among Student Groups - Gender

The percentage of females enrolled increased from 57% in 2007-08 to 60% in 2008-09. In the early 1990’s about half the population was female. By the mid-1990s, about 60% were female. The percentage of females has ranged from 55% to 62% since that time.

Enrollment Trends Among Student Groups - Ethnicity

Data reflecting ethnicity also show little change over the last decade. From 75% - 76% are White, around 20% are Black, and the remaining 4% are Hispanic, Asian, and Native American. No other ethnic groups are represented.

Enrollment Trends Among Student Groups - Age

Percentages of most age groups have remained about the same except the increase in the “under 18” group, which totaled 13% in 2004. This group increased significantly to 16% in 2007-08 and 26% in 2008-09. This is due to the growth of high school dual-enrollment offerings across the district.

Residence: In-State, Out-of-State, and International Students

There has also been an increase in the percentage of out-of-state residents. About 96% were Florida residents in 2002, compared to about 94% by the mid-1990s. Out-of-state enrollment has steadily increased from about 4% in 2002 to 7.5% in 2004 and then to 13% in 2007-2008.

The number of international students—those from outside the U.S.—has not shown a consistent increase. Several factors influence this enrollment, which has ranged from 15 to 24 from 2000 through 2004. There were 35 international students last year, which accounted for about 1% of the population. That number has dropped to 12 this year.

Residence: In-District Counties

Data reflecting county of residence shows little change over the last decade. Over 50% continue to come from Jackson County, followed by 10% to 12% from Washington, about 10% each from Calhoun and Holmes Counties, and 2% to 3% from Liberty County.

Summer programs set at Chipola

Chipola College will offer programs for children of all ages this summer.

Chipola Baseball Coach Jeff Johnson will offer several camps. A Baseball Skills Camp for ages 7-12 will meet June 15-18. Cost is $75. A Pitching Camp for ages 8-18 will meet June 22-23. Cost is $100. A Hitting Camp for ages 8-18 will meet June 24-25. Cost is $100. All baseball camps meet from 9 a.m. to noon. Call 718-2237.

Chipola Softball Coach Belinda Hendrix will offer five Softball camps. Tear ‘Em Up Tuesday Hitting Camps for all ages will meet June 5, 9, 23 and 30, from 6 to 7 p.m. Cost is $20 per date. A Fielding, Hitting, and Hustling Camp for all ages will meet June 15-16, from 1 to 4 p.m. Cost is $50 and includes insurance. For information, contact Coach Hendrix at 718-2358.

Swimming lessons will be offered for ages four and up. Lessons are based on a combination of nationally-recognized methods. The following sessions are scheduled: Session 1: June 1-11; Session 2: June 15-25; Session 3: July 13-23; and Session 4: Aug. 3-13. Classes are available at 9 a.m., 10 a.m. or 7 p.m. Sessions are Monday through Thursday for two weeks of 45-minute lessons. Cost is $45 and pre-registration is required, with a $5 late registration fee. An Adult Swimming class will try and schedule with request of 5 or more students. Infant and Preschool Swimming lessons for children 3 and under will meet July 27-29 with classes available at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Cost is $30. For information, call Rance Massengill at 718-2473.