

Mesa

Valley college reps will meet students at expo

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Representatives from five small colleges that are opening branches in Mesa -- as well as reps from Arizona State University's Polytechnic campus, Mesa Community College, Northern Arizona University and other public universities -- will share information with prospective students at a college expo on Friday.

The Higher Education Conference and Expo is sponsored by Mesa Counts on College, a partnership that includes the city of Mesa, Mesa Public Schools and Mesa Community College to increase the number of Mesa students who finish college.

"This is the first time all the new higher-education providers will be together in one place," said Jaye O'Donnell, Mesa deputy economic-development director.

"It's a great way for them (students) to hear directly from the presidents of the new schools and meet many of the staff who will be 'on the ground' here at the Mesa campuses."

The event will be from 3 to 6:30 p.m. Friday at the Mesa Arts Center's Piper Theater, 1 E. Main St. in Mesa. The event is free to students and their families, but to get in they must register at tinyurl.com/mesaexpo.

More than 200 people are expected to attend.

Mesa has recently begun to reap the results of a college-recruitment effort that Mayor Scott Smith initiated a few years ago.

O'Donnell said officials expect many of the students who enroll in the new schools to come from within the city limits.

Based on our feasibility study and market analysis completed in 2010, we know there is interest from Mesa students," O'Donnell said.

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