

NEWS BY YOU

MCC aiding new college students

Submitted by Angela Askey, a spokeswoman for Mesa Community College.

As pressure mounts on community colleges to demonstrate success and completion, and larger numbers of the unemployed or underemployed explore their academic prospects, new college students often wonder how they will handle the transition into the college classroom.

"There's a lot more involved in walking into a college classroom today than signing up for a class and picking out your textbook," said Preston D. Cameron, occupational program director in MCC's General Business Program. "The increased use of technology both inside and outside the classroom is just one example of how a college-class experience can seem rather frightening for someone who has been away from traditional education for some time."

For the Spring 2013 semester, MCC's General Business Program has introduced a fresh cohort of courses to help new college students with these jitters.

Identified within the MCC class schedule as their Pre-College Program, the Business & Information Systems (BIS) Department is offering a menu of courses to help new students adjust to a college classroom, investigate the career discipline of business and develop basic beneficial skills that can aid the student should they decide college is not for them.

Linda Collins, chair of the Business and Information Systems Department, said, "Our courses, certificates and degrees prepare students for career opportunities in business, marketing, management, real estate, computer-information systems, networking, and design and fashion merchandising."

Utilizing MCC's admissions

process, the BIS Department can now provide pre-college opportunities for underrepresented students and students who need additional academic preparation. "One of the goals of this program is to enhance higher-education learning and access, help new college students understand the expectations of college, and help more of these students make it to and through college," Cameron said.

The program includes courses in business math and calculations, personal and family financial security, workplace-readiness skills, workplace-communication skills and writing resumes. Students also get a chance to study the leadership role in the business environment.

"We are working with campus advisers to ensure that students are properly identified and enrolled into this program," Cameron said.

Information:
www.mesacc.edu/business.