

SCC, Area Schools Partner to Provide Dual-Credit Classes

Southeast Community College and school districts in three southeast Nebraska counties have formed a Career Academy Partnership that will provide high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to take college-level classes.

SCC's Career Academy program provides a broad background that will help students prepare for and explore a wide variety of career options.

High schools in Gage, Jefferson and Thayer counties are participating. Implementation will take place during the 2009-2010 school year.

The school districts are Beatrice, Bruning-Davenport, Deshler, Diller-Odell, Fairbury, Freeman, Meridian, Southern, Thayer Central, and Tri County.

The Career Academy is an opportunity for students to be both college and career ready. This means that high school juniors and seniors will take college classes while in high school, and these classes are "dual credit," meaning they will count both toward high school graduation and credit through SCC. Students will explore a career field and get a first-hand look at what goes on in the "real world." Students will participate in tours, job shadows, hear speakers, and experience other career exploration activities, many of them in their own communities.

Beginning in fall 2009, academies will be offered in health sciences and business, marketing and management. More academies will be added in the future.

A person with a career in a health sciences field would promote health and wellness or diagnose and treat injuries and disease. They could work directly with people, or they could work in laboratories to get information used in research or diagnosis. Health service employees go to work at a variety of sites. Some work in hospitals, offices, or laboratories.

SCC classes in the Health Academy are Introduction to Health, Medical Terminology, and elective choices such as Basic Pharmacy or Phlebotomy, and the opportunity to earn your Basic Nursing Assistant certificate.

SCC courses in the Business Academy may include such classes as Introduction to Business, Personal Finance, Microsoft Applications II, Principles of Accounting I, Principles of Management, and Introduction to Entrepreneurship.

Each high school will have a complete listing of classes and course descriptions when students register.

Classes will be offered in a variety of ways. Some may be face-to-face at a central location, while some may be in the student's own school, either through distance learning or online. Career Academy classes will be offered during the regular school day, and they will be scheduled much like normal high school classes.

Almost all of the courses will count toward a degree at SCC, and many of them will transfer to a four-year institution.

Students will register through their local school's spring registration process. High school counselors will assist students in registering for academy classes.

Career Academy programs are geared for preparing students for high-wage and high-demand careers. In order to compete for jobs in today's world, students will need to be both college and career ready. An academy will combine rigorous classes with relevant experiences that will make that possible.

Persons wanting more information should contact their high school counselor or Rod Rhodes, SCC's Career Academies Director, at 800-233-5027 ext. 1286, (402) 228-3468 ext. 1286, or rrhodes@southeast.edu. Rhodes' office is located on SCC's Beatrice Campus, 4771 W. Scott Road.

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For more information, contact:

Stu Osterthun

Administrative Director of Public Information and Marketing

(402) 323-3401

sosterthun@southeast.edu