New technology means easier registration

Beginning summer 2010, no more standing in line to register! Thanks to major upgrades funded by Bond Measure I dollars, Allan Hancock College is updating its technology across all college operations, including student records and a simplified online class registration process.

All registration transactions for both credit and Community Education (noncredit) students will be processed exclusively online, along with many other functions. This includes College Now! students.

The new system replaces the traditional college schedule of classes with an online, searchable database called “class search.”

Seven new degrees offered at Lompoc Valley Center

Earn the degree, lose the commute! The Allan Hancock College Lompoc Valley Center now offers seven degrees and two certificates that can be earned without leaving Lompoc.

Students can earn an associate degree in administration of justice, applied design/media, business administration, liberal arts, psychology, social science and speech communication. The Lompoc Valley Center also now offers certificates in computer business office software and certified nursing assistant.

All of the necessary classes will be offered at night, an added benefit for working students; degrees can be earned in two years, certificates in as little as six weeks.

For more information about the degree programs offered at the Lompoc Valley Center, call the counseling office at 735-3366 ext. 5200.

Summer registration workshops

Students can receive help with applying and/or registering for summer 2010 classes by attending a free workshop in the Santa Maria campus K-Annex. Workshops are being held April 26 through June 17, Monday through Friday (except Friday, June 11), from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 4 p.m. most days. No reservations are required. Questions? Contact the Admissions & Records office for times and details: (805) 922-6966 ext. 3248.

College Now! for high school students

As part of Allan Hancock College’s College Now! program, high school juniors and seniors can register for college classes online—and pay no enrollment fee.

The list of courses open to College Now! students includes offerings in almost every discipline. The course lists and recommendation form are also available for download at www.hancockcollege.edu (Quick Link “College Now”).

College Now! students can register for summer classes May 30-June 18.

Call the Admissions & Records office at 922-6966 ext. 3248 for details.

Help with College Costs

At Allan Hancock College, California residents pay the lowest community college tuition in the nation. However, financial aid is available.

Financial aid can help pay the cost of education, whether it is needed for fees, books or living expenses. The money comes in several forms such as grants, loans and work study. In addition, approximately $300,000 in scholarships is awarded every year to incoming, current or transferring Allan Hancock College students.

The Financial Aid office can be reached at (805) 922-6966 ext. 3216.

New botanical garden is a living lab

Thanks to the work of staff, faculty and volunteers, more than 50 varieties of shrubs, flowers and succulents have been planted in a new, 9,600-square-foot botanical garden on the college’s Santa Maria campus. Located just behind the new Science Building (bldg. M), the garden is designed to represent different climates from around the world and will serve as an outdoor laboratory for Hancock students.

Staff and instructors from the life and physical sciences department designed and planted the garden, which showcases plants from seven distinct regions and a selection of different types of rocks for geology students to study and identify.

Cost Comparison

2009-2010 Annual Tuition/Fees (based on 24 units/year)

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<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Tuition/Fees</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stanford</td>
<td>$37,380</td>
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<tr>
<td>UC Berkeley</td>
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<td>UCSB</td>
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<td>Fresno State</td>
<td>$4,672</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allan Hancock College</td>
<td>$668</td>
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Specifically, the grant effort focuses on increasing the number of under-represented minority students who successfully transfer from Hancock to Cal Poly and other four-year universities in the biomedical and behavioral sciences.

Bridges “scholars” benefit from a paid summer research internship at Cal Poly, among other support opportunities.

High school and community college students who are interested in participating in this academic support program must meet certain eligibility criteria. Contact Emily Smith, program specialist, at (805) 922-6966 ext. 3820 or esmith@hancockcollege.edu.

Another student’s story

“My goal as an applied design media student is to get my associate degree in graphic design.

I chose Hancock because it was affordable, it’s really accessible to me, and it’s the fastest way for me to earn a degree. I really like all of my teachers here. They are really involved in what we’re doing. I love working with the new updated programs like Adobe Illustrator and In Design.

Right now I’m working on a Web site. My digital portfolio class was working with Dreamweaver for the art that we’ve archived. I like creating designs and logos for the page layouts that we do in class.

I’m the first in my family to graduate college and get a degree. Hancock has really made a difference in my life.”

Julie Kuras, teaching award recipient

When Julie Kuras was 5 years old she drew a picture of herself as a nurse. That drawing now hangs on the wall of her office at Allan Hancock College where Kuras is the coordinator of Nursing Assistant Programs and the health sciences department chair.

In recognition of her more than 30 years of service as a nurse and her commitment to her students, Kuras is the 2010 recipient of the California Community College Association for Occupational Education Excellence in Teaching award.

She is the second Hancock instructor in as many years to receive the prestigious award, a first, according to the association. In 2009, welding instructor Rayvell Snowden received the Excellence in Teaching award in recognition of his efforts in the industrial technology department.

“It would be hard to describe how wonderful a teacher Julie is,” said Ramona Capen, a current licensed vocational nursing student and graduate of the CNA program at Hancock. “She has so much experience and she cares so much for her students. I really respect her.”

Kuras became a full-time instructor at Hancock and took over the leadership of the small CNA program in 1990. Through her dedication and hard work, the program thrived and eventually became one of the largest in the state, with near-perfect pass rates on the state clinical exams.

The nursing ladder training program that Kuras helped to develop now graduates 30-40 licensed vocational nurses and registered nurses each year. Each of these graduates started out in the CNA program and was encouraged to carry on with their education by Kuras and the faculty and staff in the nursing program.

Program partners with Cal Poly to promote science transfers

Allan Hancock College and Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, have formed a partnership to promote careers in the sciences via a “Bridges to the Bacalaureate” grant from the National Institutes of Health/National Institute of General Medical Sciences.