

COLLEGE COOPERATIVE SOUTHEAST

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THE BRIDGE NEWSLETTER

Fall 2007 Vol. 3 Issue 2

Community Learning Centers

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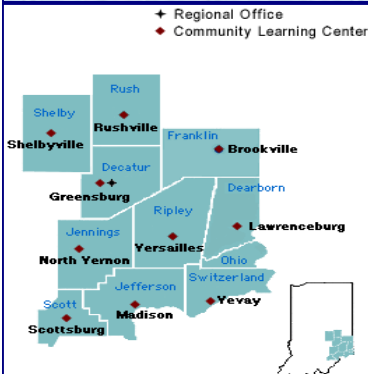
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5,927 and Counting!

Larry Montgomery
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The College Cooperative Southeast (CCS) has provided educational services resulting in 5,927 individuals participating in postsecondary work from the CCS Learning Centers. CCS coordinators document names and addresses of individuals who are taking postsecondary classes as a result of their services at the learning centers. CCS maintains a data base to determine each semester the number of individuals using our centers as "continuing" or as "new" to our centers. For the 2006-7 school year, 46% of the individuals CCS assisted into postsecondary classes had not utilized our centers. CCS is data driven and tracks various measurable items for goal-setting and continuous improvement strategy implementation.

Students Assisted at 10 CCS Learning Centers

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
# of Fall Students	1166	1341	1330
# Annual Students	3401	3705	3820
# of Registrations	4710	5431	5664
# of Classes	n/a	519 semester	564 semester
% of New Students	39%	43%	46%

For the past three years, we have averaged assisting 1,279 individuals per semester in taking classes from our Indiana postsecondary partnership. We have found the average number of registrations per individual has risen in the past year three years to 1.48 classes per student in our centers.

We record the level and type of classes "CCS assisted individuals" are taking at each learning center per semester. Last year, we recorded regionally, a 7% increase in the number of classes which totaled 564 classes per semester. We track the level of classes in order to be informative to our partnership regarding students transitioning to higher levels of classes to meet degree requirements. Because most of the individuals we assist are non-traditional students, over 60% work full-time; we want to encourage the students to identify course requirements and stay on track for degree attainment.

CCS Learning Cntrs	Fall '06	Spring '07	Summer '07
0 - 99	23	11	6
100 - 199	48	55	64
200 - 299	18	24	24
300 - 399	3	4	2
400 - 499	1	1	1
500+	7	5	3

Accountability is important in our work as we provide services for individuals to access postsecondary classes at our learning centers.

Dr. Reed Highlights Partnership Meeting

Extracted from August 7, 2007 Greensburg Daily News article by Jim Cummings

Dr. Suellen Reed highlighted the August 2007 CCS partnership meeting celebrating Gov. Daniels proclamation of distance education week throughout Indiana. The superintendent of Indiana Public Education shared her views on outsourced overseas jobs and stressed two methods the United States must use to decrease future job loss. According to Dr. Reed, "We have to change our approach and use more technology because our kids are already using it. For them, it's natural." The second method she mentioned was to gear high school and postsecondary education to more difficult but higher demanding jobs. "It's advanced manufacturing, not just manufacturing that's important," she said. "Prior to 1990 only 15% of the country's jobs were in skilled labor. Today, 65% require advanced skills. We need to make sure it is these 21st Century skills that we are teaching our kids." Dr. Reed stressed to the audience to be leaders of the country's children. "It's up to you to teach them to do more, be better people and to take personal responsibility for the person they are," she urged. "I see what you have accomplished, and thank you for educating the people of our state. Keep doing what you've done in the past and you will help create a better future."



Student Spotlight

For the past 2 years, I have taken college classes and received a tremendous amount of help through the College Cooperative Southeast representatives in Jennings County.

When I first started taking classes, I was very unsure about using a computer for assignments. For instance, I tried taking a video conferencing course through Ivy Tech and had to email all my assignments to the instructor. I had to ask for help in formatting and attaching assignments. The ladies were more than willing to help me. I really enjoyed the class and since then have become familiar enough with the computer to sign up for an internet course next semester with IUPUC in Columbus.

The advantage of being able to take college classes in my home town has helped



Charity Herr

me on my way to a degree in Elementary Education. I was also able to take the necessary math classes face-to-face using the CCS Learning Center in the Jennings County Public Library. That saved a huge amount of money in gas expense. Since starting classes, my average is four courses a semester.

I decided to go back to college after my husband and I closed our 25 year business in 2005. I didn't think that I would ever have to look for a job, until that point in time, when I realized life can change quickly, and business is no different. I found out about College Cooperative Southeast by attending a Learn More Indiana presentation at the Jennings County Public Library.

I would like to thank the College Cooperative Southeast for helping me to get a great start on my degree!

Coordinator Corner

Rachel Sullivan is the new CCS Coordinator in Greensburg. She is a DePauw University graduate, and native of



Decatur County who looks forward to being active in the community and assisting people with their distance education needs. She and her husband Neil, have a 12 mos. old daughter named Sophia.

Congratulations to Carol Gammons, assistant CCS coordinator in Madison who received a Women's Legislator Scholarship at a spring luncheon and was recognized by State Rep. Cleo Duncan on both House



floors. Carol is a St. Mary-of-the-Woods student seeking a bachelor's degree in elementary education.

Purdue & Ball State Universities Make Dream Come True with a little help from College Cooperative Southeast

I dreamed of being an educator from the time I first entered elementary school. When my teacher asked for assistance doing anything from passing out papers to running something to the office, my hand was always the first to go up. My dream came true in 1986. After graduating from Purdue University, I got a call from the superintendent of the school where I had student taught. He wanted me to remain on staff as a 'real' teacher.



Bev Wilson, Greensburg Middle School teacher

This first teaching position was at a school close to the Purdue campus, so I decided it would be the perfect opportunity to pursue my master's degree. The field of education was so rewarding for

me that I decided to get my masters degree in school administration. I learned to juggle a job, a family, nightly homework, and many other responsibilities. For awhile, everything seemed to be falling into place. I just didn't foresee a divorce, a job change, and moving back to my hometown.

Teaching in my hometown and living close to my family had just one drawback...I no longer lived close to a college campus. I hoped to finish my master's degree at IUPUI, but quickly found that the 2 hour round trip drive to Indianapolis for each class combined with the responsibilities of caring for small children made it too difficult. I all but gave up.

I started teaching at the high school level in the year 2000. Prior to that, I had never heard of CCS. I bumped into the coordinator and over time, found out there was an opportunity for me to get

my administrative degree without ever leaving Greensburg. I could hardly believe my ears. By then, too much time had lapsed for me to be able to use my courses from Purdue. I was determined even though it meant starting all over. I enrolled in the Ball State program and couldn't believe how convenient it was to take classes via distance education. CCS and distance education was a blessing for me.

On May the 5th of this year my entire family accompanied me to the Ball State campus in Muncie, Indiana. Twenty years after taking my first graduate class, I was finally getting my administrative degree. My children, who are now young adults, watched as their mom walked up the steps to finally receive her diploma. Had it not been for CCS, I would not have achieved this dream...but together, with the support of my children and CCS...my dream came true.