



West Valley VIEW

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Estrella Mountain College branches out

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College just got a little closer for residents in the far reaches of the West Valley.

Estrella Mountain Community College is now offering college classes in Buckeye, the Estrella community in Goodyear and Wickenburg. The sixteen- and eight-week evening sessions will be held at West Valley high schools.

"Our goal is to bring higher education to the Buckeye area and not have people travel so far," said Lauren Shellenbarger, dean of student services. "It's exciting to expand."

Buckeye Union High School at 902 Eason Ave. will host:

- CIS 105, Survey of Computer Information Systems
- GBS 151, Introduction to Business
- ENG 101, First-Year Composition
- MAT 092, Introductory Algebra

Estrella Foothills High School at 13033 S. Estrella Parkway in Goodyear will host:

- CIS 105, Survey of Computer Information Systems
- GBS 151, Introduction to Business
- ENG 101, First-Year Composition

"We've offered dual enrollment for high school students, but these classes are in the evenings, open to the public," Shellenbarger said. "It's for anybody."

The courses being offered are available to students from the high schools, as well as adults returning to college. Registration is open and a special registration session will be available from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday at Buckeye Union High School at 902 Eason Ave.

Students can call 623-935-8888 for more information about placement testing and to register. Math classes and some other courses require placement testing before you can register.

"I think it's fantastic we can offer that for the community and for our students," Buckeye Union High Principal Mary Ann Sphar said. "It's a win-win situation."

The college hopes the courses are popular and has plans to expand further into the Buckeye area in the future, Shellenbarger said.

In the spring of 2005, the Maricopa Community Colleges Governing Board

contracted with Arizona Land Advisors to oversee the district's purchase of new land in Buckeye. The land purchase will serve as a future campus site.

The site is about 80 acres at Turner Road and Southern Avenue in Buckeye. A physical building is not yet planned, that will be part of a future bond.

Until facilities are built in Buckeye in the future, the satellite classes are a way to make college readily available to people in the far West Valley.

"We are fairly close to the college, but some people don't have the transportation, so it's great to bring it here," Sphar said. "A lot of our students do end up going there because it's also easier on their pocketbooks than starting at the four-year universities."

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