



EduKan continues to grow

A recent survey commissioned by EduKan, a consortium of six community colleges, determined over 30 percent of the general population of western Kansas plans to take an online course in the next six months to 2.5 years.

Of those in western Kansas who have taken in online class, 66 percent of that group took a class from EduKan.

Dr. Dennis Franz is the executive director of consortium which includes Colby Community College, Barton County Community College, Pratt Community College, Garden City Community College, Dodge City Community College and Seward County Community College.

"EduKan growth was 14 percent last year and we expect a 16 percent increase for the coming year," said Franz. "This growth is on top of 30 percent growth in 2004 and 20 percent in 2005. Since 2003, EduKan has experienced 100 percent growth in online enrollments."

The survey conducted by DataMark included a phone survey of young adults in western Kansas, a mail survey of college freshmen and sophomores in eastern Kansas and a mail survey of college freshmen and sophomores in western Kansas.

"The surveys show a revealing trend in education," said Franz. "The majority of students who need educational services and represent future enrollments are over 24 years old and continue into their 40s. The traditional student, 18 to 24, will only represent less than 10 percent of the future educational student markets in the next few years."

A new report by the Sloan Foundation predicts the continued growth of online will be as much as 30 percent a year for the next few years.

Campus enrollments are predicted to maintain current levels with 5 percent or less annual growth.

"One of the interesting aspects of the DataMark survey was that 37 percent of EduKan students have their four-year degrees with 17 percent reporting they have a master's degree," said Franz. "The course areas they were enrolled in were primarily the sciences with many of these students going back into the medical area."

The DataMark survey of freshman and sophomore students in western and eastern Kansas determined the most sought-after online courses are in the areas of business, general education and required courses for various degrees.

"Today's online student is a comparison shopper looking for the best course for the least amount of money," said Franz. "Thirty percent of the general population in the service areas of the six EduKan community colleges is going to take an Internet course in the near future. By working together the schools in the consortium are able to offer quality online courses at a reasonable tuition rate."

Spring semester classes will be offered in three sessions. Courses will begin Jan. 15, Feb. 12 and March 12. A complete course schedule is at: www.edukan.org.

Free dinner



DEBBIE SCHWANKE/Colby Community College

Betty Fitzsimmons, left, and Janet Phelps attended the 39th annual free Thanksgiving Dinner for older Americans on Thursday. The event, held at the Colby Community Building, was sponsored by Colby Community College and the Thomas County Council on Aging. Students in the CCC Social Problems class prepared and served the meal to approximately 170 people.

Holiday books now available at college library

By Shelly Huelsman
Library Director

Pilgrims, Thanksgiving, New England in the fall, Indians, all are traditional November images in the United States.

We all look forward to celebrating Thanksgiving and those who celebrated it first—the Pilgrims at Plymouth colony in New England. Recently, historians have taken a renewed interest in the early history of our country.

Several new titles have been published after re-examining our colonial heritage.

Some of these include "Mayflower" by Nathaniel Philbrick, "Peoples of a Spacious Land: Families and Cultures in Colonial New England" by Gloria L. Main, and "American Jezebel" by Eve LaPlante.

"Mayflower" was an interesting read. It covers the history of the Pilgrims, their early adventures in England, Holland, their trip to America, and their relations with the natives they encountered.

"Mayflower" covers approximately 50 years of colonial history, ending with the conclusion of King Phillip's War in 1676.

What makes this title unique is it effectively illustrates the dependence that both the Indians and the Pilgrims had on each other for survival; and, how their interdependence led to the bloody and destructive war known as King Phillip's War.

If you are interested in a scholarly account of how the Pilgrims, Puritans and Indians went about their daily affairs, then you'll en-

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joy "Peoples of a Spacious Land."

The author uses primary sources to compare the lives of the English settlers with that of the native tribes in New England.

Similarities and differences are explained with references to the primary sources available from this era.

Anne Hutchinson, founder of Rhode Island, became famous as she was found guilty of heresy and sedition by the 40 male judges of the Massachusetts General Court.

"American Jezebel," written by a descendant of Anne, is more than a biography; instead it's a retelling of the trial, and of the faith of one strong, independent puritan woman.

All these titles are available at the H. F. Davis Memorial Library on the college campus.

Stop by and see what other tales of Colonial America are on our shelves.

For questions, call 462-3984.

Winter concert to feature Sunflower Singers; soloist

The Colby Community College vocal music department has scheduled their Winter Concert 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7, in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center.

"The concert will feature a mixture of music including holiday, spiritual, as well as an African selection," said vocal music director Dr. Philip Shuman.

"We have many talented vocalists and several will be featured as soloists during the concert."

In addition to the Concert Choir, the Sunflower Singers will be performing several selections.

"We are very pleased that Amy Kendrick has agreed to be the soloist in Make a Joyful Noise," said Shuman.

"Other soloists are Simon Micek and Spencer Reeves from Atwood.

Colby Community College Band Director Brad Herndon is the soloist for a spiritual selection."

Pat Ziegelmeier will be accompanying the groups.

Everyone is invited to this performance which is the program's major concert for the fall semester. There is no admission charge.



Amy Kendrick practices her solo with the Colby Community College concert choir.

Good cause

Colby Community College President Lynn Kreider was one of 80 people who gave blood during the Red Cross Blood Drive sponsored by the nursing students at the college. Nursing instructor Tina Schrick reported 21 first-time donors attended the event held Nov. 9 in the Colby Community College Student Union.

New art class scheduled

Colby Community College art instructor Cindia Carlson-Tsuda is offering a spring semester Fine Arts Experience class which will include a trip to Santa Fe, N.M. and Phoenix, Ariz.

The course will meet from 6-9 p.m. March 22, March 29 and April 19, 2007. The trip to the Southwest will be April 5-9.

Carlson-Tsuda will also be offering oil painting during the spring semester. Two sections will be offered including a night class which will meet every Wednesday from 6-9 p.m.

For those interested in ceramics, Jeanne Cox will be teaching a class

each Monday from 6-9 p.m.

Students interested in obtaining their lifeguard certification are encouraged to enroll in lifeguard training taught by Kipp Nelson. Classes will be held Monday evenings beginning March 19 through May 18. Those interested in recertification will meet on Thursday evenings from March 15-May 18. Barry Kaaz will be offering Geographic Information Systems during the spring semester. The three-hour course will meet Thursdays from 6-9 p.m. beginning Jan. 18.

For more information about these courses or to enroll, call the Admissions Office at 460-4690.



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