

NEWS RELEASE

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Students benefit from increased enrollment at Pine Technical College

PINE CITY, Minn. – In its third week of the Fall 2009 semester, and after the initial flurry of adding late registrants and *Add-Drop Week*, Pine Technical College announces its highest enrollment for a single semester.

“Enrollment has surged to more than 800 students this semester. That’s up more than 28 percent from last year,” said Robert Baker, Pine Technical College Registrar.

One of the benefits College staff and students are seeing as a result of such an increase is the diversity of the student body. Traditionally, the College draws local students; however, this fall, students hail from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, New York and even Iceland.

“I live in Wisconsin and drive about 45 miles one way, but it is very much worth the drive,” said student Justin Fultz. “My classes are full, and I know I am benefiting from all the different perspectives,” Fultz added.

“This is my second semester at PTC, and I definitely see an increase in activity this semester,” said student Jenny Overson. “Students in my classes are more involved and more engaged, and in addition to learning from our instructors, we’re also learning from each other,” Overson added.

A significant amount of the growth is attributed to those who have recently been laid off from work and are looking to retrain for a new career or sharpen skills during time they now have off, which adds a rich, more experienced element to the student body. In the midst of the recession, many fields, such as the construction industry, are in a downturn but are predicted to improve by the time current students graduate.

“Students coming in now will graduate from PTC in two years or less, depending on their program,” said Nancy Mach, Dean of Student Affairs. “And when the business cycle turns around, these students will be ready. What’s down today is up tomorrow,” Mach added.

Due to the unusually high enrollment, the College is responding to a few unforeseen problems it had not addressed before, such as a shortage of student parking, and in the first week of classes, the bathrooms ran out of soap on multiple occasions.

“After the first week this semester, I know better now to arrive at least 20 minutes early, so I get a good parking space. It’s competitive out there [in the parking lot],” said student Donna Wolf. “To have to park two blocks away and haul my heavy backpack is a chore! Plus, now I know not to leave between classes, because if I do, I won’t get my original space back or any space nearby,” Wolf added.

PTC administrators and staff have handled each issue and remain committed to the College’s vision and mission.

“We continue to be a vibrant, comprehensive college and community resource for quality education,” President Robert Musgrove quotes the College’s vision. “More vibrant this semester than ever!” added Musgrove.

“Our continuing student-centered focus, comparatively inexpensive tuition, flexibility and convenience and high-end technology are contributing factors to our growth,” Mach said. “As PTC enters this academic year, it is a very positive sign our enrollment is up by 28 percent. It’s evidence we are the College of choice for this region and beyond,” Mach added.

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