

Students Begin College Work While Completing High School

BY SUSAN USHER

Approximately 20 West Brunswick High School students will be taking college courses at Brunswick Community College this year while completing their senior year of high school.

About 10 students each will be enrolled in cosmetology and electronics courses.

"Those are vocational offerings we don't have," said West Brunswick Principal Ed Lemon. "We really love this concept."

Students will start their school day on an early schedule at West Brunswick, then leave after their third classes of the day for a three-hour (11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.) block of classes at BCC.

"This is a great opportunity for them to begin their college education," said Johnnie Simpson, BCC's vice president for instruction. Approximately five students from South Brunswick High School will be taking other classes under the same kind of arrangement.

The arrangement gives the students a jump start on their college education, while providing high school elective courses in which they have a personal interest and which would otherwise not be available.

High school students may take community college classes under several different articulation arrangements that allow them to take advanced classes or to take vocational or technical courses not offered at their high local school.

A new "Tech Prep" program allows students to plan ahead for continuity of courses and credit from high school to two-year curriculum programs at the community college, earning dual credits on certain classes taken while in high school.

"I think the sky is the limit with what we can do with that program in the future," said W. Michael Reaves, BCC president.

Under many circumstances, students can receive both high school and college course credits for classes

they complete successfully. That will be the case for these 20 West Brunswick students, though most don't need the additional credits to graduate.

Lemon said the majority will graduate with more than 20 credits, and that poor performance in the BCC classes will not keep them from graduating from high school.

The program also offers students another real-life transition from high school to college—no policing by school officials to go to class or to get their work done.

"In regard to these classes, we told them they will be treated like college students," said Lemon. "There will be none of the calling or warning like we do at the high school," said Lemon. "On that end they will be treated like college students."

As of last week, the students still had to complete the ASSET, BCC's placement process, but were expected to place into the appropriate classes given their high school coursework.

This isn't the first cooperative effort between BCC and West Brunswick. Several years ago BCC offered a college-level English classes on the West Brunswick campus. Students could earn college credit for the class, but not dual credit. They still had to complete their senior English requirement at the high school.

Lemon said he is eager to see more of this type of cooperative program, both with BCC and with local business and industry.

One committee of the school's Performance-Based Accountability planning group has been given the job of trying to iron out details of an apprenticeship program. As apprentices, students could receive pay and class credit for on-the-job training.

Apprenticeships in fields such as bricklaying or plumbing would be a way of providing more advanced work skills training for students not going to college.

"What we're trying to do is meet the needs of all the kids," he said.

"In regard to these classes, we told them they will be treated like college students."

—Ed Lemon, WBHS Principal

Moose Lodge Encourages Scholarships

Applicants are being sought for a scholarship to Brunswick Community College established by the Oak Island Moose Lodge.

The endowed scholarship provides a one-year cash award to be used toward tuition, fees and books at BCC.

Applicants must be legal residents of Brunswick County and must have

completed an application to BCC in any curriculum leading to an associate degree or diploma.

Other award criteria include good academic performance, athletic participation, school- or community-related extracurricular activities and work experiences, and having a relative need for financial support. Preference is given to relatives of

Oak Island Moose Lodge members.

Scholarship applications are available through the BCC Financial Aid Office on the college's main campus near Supply. The application deadline is Sept. 10.

For a scholarship information packet contact Barry Hood, financial aid officer, at BCC at 754-6950, 457-6329 or 343-0203.

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