

High School Students

National Program Provides College Studies To 200,000

What do these high school students have in common? A New Jersey high school senior studying the Bloomsbury poets. A high school sophomore in Alaska researching U.S. labor history. A junior performing advanced physics experiments in a Florida high school. This fall, these and some 200,000 other students in high schools across the nation are beginning college-level studies which may qualify them for college credit, advanced standing, and cost savings at more than 1,400 American Colleges and universities. Some may even enter college as sophomores.

For the past 20 years, the Advanced Placement (AP) Program of the College Entrance Examination Board has been helping highly motivated and talented students like these learn college-level

subjects in high school. "Advanced Placement is recognized and widely accepted by the nation's public and private colleges and universities, including some of the most prestigious," said Harlan Hanson, director of the College Board program. "The student who earns three or four AP credits receives immediate sophomore standing or its equivalent at more than 100 colleges and universities, including Brandeis, Harvard, Northwestern, Princeton, Stanford, Vassar, and Yale, and the state universities of Maryland, North Carolina, and Utah," he said.

The program can also save college costs, a crucial factor to most parents and students today, Dr. Hanson said. "We estimate that the average AP student saves \$400, but savings can amount to \$12,000 or more for the student who uses the program to shorten college

time to three years and enter the job market a year earlier. Research has shown that AP students continue to earn above-average grades in college and are more likely to graduate with honors than non-AP students. Ninety percent of them consider their advanced courses as the most valuable of all their high school studies.

After a year of independent or classroom study in high school, students take standardized examinations in May to verify their learning. AP offers 20 exams in 13 college subjects: American history, art (history and studio), biology, chemistry, English, European history, French (language and literature), German, classics (Virgil and lyric), mathematics (two calculus exams), music, physics (three exams), and Spanish (language and literature).

The most recent addition, this year, is Spanish language. Students may take the exams as early as tenth grade (as over 1,700 did last May), but the greatest number take them in their senior year. Each AP student may take any number of the three-hour, objective, short-answer and essay exams for a fee of \$32 each.

Even though 3,600 of the nation's 21,500 high schools provide AP courses to their students today, most students who could benefit from the program know nothing about it and discover it too late, in college catalogs, Dr. Hanson said. "This is particularly unfortunate when you consider the low cost of providing an Advanced Placement course for these students," he said. "A school may provide an AP course by relieving a teacher from study or cafeteria duty, by running classes

smaller than average, by adding required readings or lab work to existing honors and advanced sections, or by cooperating with other schools. Faculty may also supervise the studies of individual students as they prepare for the examinations.

The College Board helps schools establish AP programs through consultants or teacher conferences in large districts, and, for smaller

ones, lists of experienced AP teachers from nearby districts for informal consultations. "AP is good news for communities that have high aspirations for their children," Dr. Hanson said. "It increases the students' options, and helps them develop the self-confidence, independence, and study skills that will help them achieve in college. We hope more communities will take advantage of it."

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Woods, Pankey Join Ma Bell Sales Staff

By Sidney Moore Jr. Post Staff Writer

An easing of the once stressed economy seems to be providing better job opportunities.

Brenda Woods and David Pankey, directory advertising sales representatives for Southern Bell, say they are examples that opportunity does exist.

"The two are part of a 36 member sales team that canvasses North Carolina selling yellow pages advertising each year. They work in six-person crews and travel nine or 10 months per year over the state.

"I like the traveling because I like to meet different people," said Woods, a 28-year-old divorcee who has two children.

A former University of North Carolina at Asheville student, she met members of the Southern Bell sales crew while working part-time in an Asheville motel restaurant where the crew was staying. She was impressed by the people she met and their job.

After taking the suggestion of one of the sales representatives to apply for a sales position, she was hired.

Six months later, Woods says she finds the job as exciting as she anticipated it might be.

Pankey, 27, of Winston-Salem has a year's experience to his credit as a yellow pages salesman. He anticipates earning \$20,000 his second year on the job and says that salary says a lot about opportunities at Southern Bell for qualified applicants.

Other than the money, Pankey says the training program for sales personnel is outstanding.

"The training program we've got can turn a sheep into a tiger," he said.

Pankey was referred to Southern Bell by a friend who works for the Urban League.

"It's the best thing that has ever happened to me," said Pankey.

"You're able to display initiative. You don't have anybody breathing down your back," he said.

A Southern Bell official said the company fills sales representative openings using a selection process that takes about 60 days. He said the company is interested in applicants that are seeking a career.

The jobs are first bidded for by company employees. If employees prefer to remain in their present jobs, an applicant is considered.

Such applicants are usually already on file, said the official. He indicated that applying for such a position is a long range prospect rather than seeking to fill an immediate opening.

The official pegged first year salaries (plus commission) for the job within a range of from \$13,500 to \$16,500. He said no prior sales experience is required.

During Bus Week many people voiced complaints about existing schedules and schedule adherence. The Transit Planning Office has been moving to solve these top priority service improvement needs.

New, easier-to-read schedules will be made available in September. Two new supervisors will be hired to combat schedule unreliability. The Transit Planning Office will make monthly schedule adherence checks throughout the year to identify other problem areas.

Several capital improvements are also slated for the near future.

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