



NEWS ARTICLE

Appeared in the Dubuque Telegraph Herald
June 15, 2009

CONTACT: Greater Dubuque Development Corporation
Mike Blouin, President
MikeB@greaterdubuque.org
P: 563.557.9049

UW-P breaks application record

More than 3,600 applications are submitted to the university, which also reports an increase in incoming freshmen.

BY ANDREW BRUNNER TH STAFF WRITER

PLATTEVILLE, Wis. -- The University of Wisconsin-Platteville is gearing up for a record-breaking semester. According to Mick Viney, assistant chancellor of student affairs at UW-P, the university received a record number of 3,637 applications for the fall 2009 semester, an increase of 18 percent. The university also has reached its enrollment goals for the semester. About 1,550 freshmen will attend this fall, an increase of nearly 100 students from last fall's freshman class. This brings UW-P's total enrollment to nearly 7,800 students, approaching the goal of 8,000 students enrolled at the university by 2015. "We are providing great facilities, great instructors and great programs that will serve careers in the 21st century, and that's why people are coming here," said Barb Daus, special assistant to the chancellor. "The university is moving in a good direction."

The biggest contributor to the university's growth is the Tri-State Initiative, which provides in-state tuition to Illinois and Iowa students. Beginning in 2005, the program's goal is to increase the university's enrollment by 2,000 in 10 years. However, Viney said, growth has not been exclusive to out-of-state students. "We have also seen a 200-student increase in in-state students since 2005," he said. Of UW-P's 1,550 incoming freshmen, 400 are TSI participants.

Such explosive growth in enrollment has obvious financial advantages. "Our growth has allowed us to hire faculty, offer more class sections and help fund the construction of some of our new facilities," Viney said. Since 2005, UW-P has renovated several buildings and constructed a new residence hall and engineering building.

Viney said the university and surrounding community have prepared for a growing student population. "We are committed to housing freshmen and sophomores, and with the capacity to house 2,700 students, we can easily handle that," Viney said. He said the community has responded by building additional housing and stores, such as Wal-Mart, to accommodate students' needs off campus. "It has been a positive and successful relationship between the university and the city," Viney said.

Viney said once the university hits its goal of 8,000 students, it probably will maintain those numbers. "That's where we feel comfortable. We have the facilities and staff to accommodate that number," Viney said.

Enrollment up in tri-states
The University of Wisconsin-Platteville is not the only area college reporting an increase in enrollment for the upcoming school year. In fact, all but one is reporting steady increases. Loras College reports that the school is on pace to have one of its largest freshman classes in school history. Freshman enrollment is up 15% from last year. If those numbers hold, the college would have its largest enrollment since 1993. The University of Dubuque has seen a 10% increase in applications from last year and hopes that those numbers will translate to an equal increase in enrollment. At this time last year, UD had 1,415 applications, a freshman class of 385 and a total enrollment of 1,323. Northeast Iowa Community College does not have official numbers for its fall semester, but if enrollment in its summer program is any indication, they also are seeing an increase. This year, 2,021 students are enrolled in NICC's summer program, an increase of nearly 250 students from last year. It is the second-highest summer enrollment at the college. Clarke College was the only school that could not confirm an increase in enrollment. Michael Cyze, executive director of communication, said it is too early in the process to know how large the incoming class will be.