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OU at Macomb program expanding offerings

By **Dawn Pauli**, contributing writer

Thanks to a new agreement and expanded program options, the **OU at Macomb** partnership is being applauded by students, the community and local press.

Through two locations in Clinton Township — the Macomb University Center (MUC) and Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD) — Oakland University is offering a variety of programs, many targeted to students enrolled in the two-year program at Macomb Community College (MCC). The new agreement ensures students a seamless transfer, ensuring credits are not lost when transferring to OU.

“The cost of college continues to rise,” said Pamela Kellett, director of OU at MISD. “This partnership is good news for students. Students can do the first two years at community college, at the least cost to them.”

One of the keys to the seamless transfer is the new associate of baccalaureate studies at Macomb. OU worked closely with MCC advisers and counselors to ensure they understand OU’s programs and how to counsel their students who plan to transfer.

“It gives the students an opportunity for a seamless transition. We are offering all the courses they need on Macomb’s campus, in their backyard,” Kellett said. “We have all the program plans laid out with a precise plan of attack to follow.”

The partnership with the Macomb University Center began in 1994, and OU began holding classes at the Macomb Intermediate School District in 2000. OU is the largest partner at the MUC, in terms of students and programs.

But Kellett said that’s not the only thing that sets OU apart from the other universities marketing to potential students.

“It’s OU’s service to the students. The number one reason we’re doing this is to help those Macomb County students and give them customized service. We’re concerned about the success of the students, and we’re out here, we’re their support system.”

Recognizing many students have part-time jobs to cover the expense of college, OU at Macomb offers consistent schedules of classes so students can plan their work schedules.

“We work with students and listen to them through focus groups and informational sessions. We received a lot of feedback from the Macomb community,” Kellett said.

This fall, Shari Fogolini, a Macomb Township resident, transferred to the elementary education program at the Macomb University Center from MCC. She appreciates knowing that for the next two and a half years, she will be attending classes on Mondays and Wednesdays. She also is guaranteed a spot in the classes required for her program, providing she registers on time.

“The more I hear about the program, the more I know I made the right decision,” said Fogolini, who works part time and is a mother of two young children. “It’s going to save me eight hours a week in driving time, plus I know all my classes are lined up and I don’t have to worry about them filling.”

The Macomb locations offer the same high-quality programs as the Oakland campus, with a low student-to-faculty ratio, Kellett said. OU professors helped design the state-of-the-art UC2 engineering and computer building at the Macomb University Center.

“The Macomb locations offer top-notch technology, excellent library resources and accessible parking,” Kellett said. She also is working to make sure books, student IDs and OU merchandise will be available for OU students at

Macomb.

The Detroit News recognizes the new agreement as an effort to assist parents and students with the financial strain of college. An April 30, 2004, editorial in the newspaper states "Michigan needs more cooperation between its colleges and universities to make it easier and less expensive for students to earn a college degree. A new deal between Oakland University and Macomb Community College is an example of what can happen."

Oakland University at Macomb offers a variety of undergraduate, graduate and post-baccalaureate and certification programs. New programs this fall at the MUC include a B.S. in elementary education, B.A. in communication, B.S. in occupational safety and health, RN to MSN, master in educational studies, and master of training and development. In addition to ongoing professional development courses, the MISD location is introducing a new doctor of philosophy in education, educational leadership concentration.

Macomb is hosting an open house Sunday, Oct. 24, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the MUC's Assembly Hall. OU is offering two "Transfer Tuesdays" Nov. 16 and 30 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. to give students the opportunity to apply and be admitted the same day.

For more information on OU at Macomb including a complete list of programs, visit the [OU Programs at Macomb Web site](#).

SUMMARY

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