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Another Semester, Another Record Enrollment for Howard College

BIG SPRING – The numbers just keep getting better and better for Howard College as they announced yet another record enrollment for the Spring 09 numbers just in time for base year funding calculations.

The certified numbers are in and a total enrollment of 3,831 represents an 11.3% increase over the Spring 08 numbers. The other piece of the puzzle, contact hours generated by those students, fits in nicely to the equation showing an overall projected increase of 9.3% over Spring 08 and a projected 5.3% increase over the last base funding period once final numbers are calculated.

“We are excited about our enrollment and contact hour numbers and it is clear that the number of people seeking out higher education is growing,” said Dr. Cheryl T. Sparks, President of Howard College. “Howard College has continued to move in a positive direction and bring more learners one step closer to their educational goals and we are proud of that.”

The Big Spring campus, with an 18% increase, pulled in the biggest boost with an additional 237 students over the previous Spring. The SWCID campus also saw marked increases with an additional 19 students representing a 17% increase for their smaller population.

The San Angelo campus also scaled up some numbers as the enrollment on that campus went up by 156 students or 8%. The campus has shown record increases over the last two years with the addition of general studies dual credit courses and a tremendous workforce training program.

The Lamesa campus wasn't quite as fortunate as their sibling campuses with 19 less students representing a 13% decrease in enrollment. This being the only decrease for the district, it highlights a place for focus and hard work.

Sparks stated “This is a small campus within our district and we are going to increase our efforts to provide educational opportunities for the learners in that community.”

Of course, even though the numbers are leaning to the positive, Howard College will still face a challenging legislative session.

“I am confident that our legislators know the value of the community college system and how we fit into the grand scheme of higher education,” Sparks said. “I believe that they understand how important we are to the communities we serve and will do their best to provide appropriate funding levels.”

For more information on Howard College, please call 264-5000 or visit www.howardcollege.edu