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Howard College Again Named Among Top 50 Fastest Growing Community Colleges

BIG SPRING – For the second consecutive year, Howard College was named among the 50 fastest growing community colleges in the country for the 2,500 – 4,999 category, as reported in the latest issue of Community College Week, coming in at the #27 spot.

Community College Week is an independent source of in-depth information for and about two-year colleges. The publication regularly provides analyses of critical academic trends and issues as well as vital statistics such as “The Special Report on The Fastest-Growing Community Colleges.”

“We have known all along that we were on a great pathway for success with our current growth,” said Dr. Cheryl T. Sparks, President of Howard College. “We have seen this growth throughout our district and we are very pleased to see the fruits of our labor materialize before us and be recognized for our growth along with our peer colleges in this category.”

The Fall 07 semester realized a 12% increase across the district which was led by the continued increase on the Big Spring and San Angelo campuses. Much of the increase is credited to the concurrent or dual credit programs; however, growth was also seen in the remainder of the student population.

The San Angelo campus alone grew by 307 students in Fall 07, due in large part to their dual credit enrollment. “With a great partner like San Angelo ISD, our dual credit numbers here in San Angelo have definitely increased,” said LeAnne Byrd, Provost at Howard College San Angelo. “But we have also seen growth in our medical programs which were evidenced by our recent expansion to the St. John’s campus earlier this year.”

There couldn’t be better timing for a growth in the district as this is a funding year for Howard College. “I am extremely proud of the growth we are seeing across our district and know this will have a positive effect on each one of our communities as some of them have experienced some economic struggles of their own,” added Sparks.

The Fall 08 Howard College preliminary district numbers reported an increase of 16,656 contact hours which shows that not only are more students enrolled in college classes, but those students are also taking more courses, a concept which couldn’t please administrators more. “We want more students on all of our campuses taking more courses,” said Sparks. “It is a win-win situation for our entire district as well as the communities that we serve.”

For more information on Howard College, visit www.howardcollege.edu. To view the complete report, visit www.ccweek.com.