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Kenai Peninsula College

Kenai River Campus end-of-year recap

Kenai Peninsula College faculty, staff and administration, including staff from the Resurrection Bay and Anchorage Extension Sites, came together May 9 for an overview of the academic year.

KPC director Gary Turner provided a college-wide perspective of the past academic year. Kenai Peninsula College's service area is over 25,000 square miles including communities on and off the road system. There were 1,637 students taking credit classes, up eight percent over last year. More than 300 students took adult basic education classes in order to prepare for GED exams, bringing the total number of students served to 1,955 at KPC campuses and extension sites.

Kenai Peninsula College has 20 percent full-time students and 80 percent part-time students. In line with the national average for college student gender, KPC has 56 percent female and 44 percent male students. Turner pointed to the fact that the average age of a KPC student continues to fall. Currently the number of students in the 18-24 year old category is up 60 percent over five years ago.

KPC's budget in fiscal year 2008 was over \$11 million and the college is the sixth largest employer on the Kenai Peninsula.

Overall, the college continues to enjoy steady growth. Turner pointed out that in order to maintain the current trend, distance education will continue to allow the college to reach out to students throughout the borough, across the state and in some cases the lower 48 and even internationally. There are twelve distance courses being offered this summer and forty in the upcoming fall semester. He was careful to add that distance courses will never take the place of face-to-face classes delivered at KPC campuses and extension sites.

Enrollments for the summer semester and fall semester are up dramatically. Fall registration opened online May 1 for the general public and according to Bill Howell, KRC Student Services director, enrollment is “crazy up” compared to the same time last year. So far, headcount for the fall semester is 141 full-time students compared to 79 last year. Part-time students registered for fall classes stands at 369, compared to 166 last year. Overall headcount across the KPC system is up 105 percent compared to the same date last spring.

The public is encouraged to register for fall classes sooner than later as classes, especially those that fulfill general education requirements are filling quickly.

KRC faculty promotions announced

KPC director Gary Turner recently gave the campus notice that four KRC faculty members, Bettie Wallace, Jane Fuerstenau, Andy Veh and Bettina Kipp, have been promoted to associate professor status and been granted the distinction of tenure.

In the field of education, tenure generally refers to having a formal, secure appointment until retirement, after working on a temporary or provisional basis.

Wallace teaches math, Veh teaches both math and physics, Kipp is counseling faculty and Fuerstenau is KRC’s librarian.

“These are significant milestones and we should be very proud of them and their accomplishments,” Turner said.