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Growing Enrollment at Rhodes State

LIMA, Ohio— Rhodes State College’s enrollment has grown by 13 percent from fall 2008 to fall 2009, with the number of students exceeding the 4,000 mark. This record number of new and returning students—4,147—can be attributed to the college’s increased efforts to reach out to individuals who are struggling in the economic recession.

“We’ve targeted our efforts to adult students and expanded our recruitment efforts to social service agencies,” said Melissa Green, Vice President for Student Affairs. “As a result, we’ve seen a 51 percent increase in our non-traditional students.”

Non-traditional students are defined as individuals who’ve been out of high school for one year or more. These include displaced workers and individuals interested in changing their career or seeking to advance their chosen profession or gain new skills.

With an economic recession and changing workforce needs, Rhodes State College plays an important role in helping individuals in Lima and the surrounding communities prepare for the future. The college not only has the most affordable tuition in the area, it offers 100 majors and certificates and 1,200 specialized training opportunities. “Job growth is going to occur in those positions that require at least an associate’s degree,” says Judi Mazzarelli, Assistant Dean, Student Services. “To be successful in the future, workers will need analytical, problem-solving, and communication skills. They’ll need to stay on top of new technologies and keep their skills up to date.”

Rhodes State has experienced the largest increase in new students in the Allied Health majors (24 percent) and Information Technology and Engineering Technology majors (18 percent). These fields continue to experience job growth and stability despite the struggling

economy. “These industries have a positive growth outlook both locally and nationally,” explains Mazzealli. “We also expect more positions to open up in these fields as Baby Boomers start to retire.”

To accommodate the growth in students, Rhodes State is offering more on-line courses and has improved parking. “Our mission is to serve,” says Green. “We want each and every student to achieve success at Rhodes and in their future career.”

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