

Fall head count released by NCMC and MCCA

News

Posted by : John

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Student enrollment for the fall semester is down slightly at North Central Missouri College of Trenton; but it is still up considerably when compared to six years ago. Community college enrollment across Missouri also is down a bit but a sizeable increase is noted for the past six years overall.

Fall enrollment is down slightly at North Central Missouri College of Trenton. However, enrollment is still up considerably when compared to FIVE years ago. Figures on student enrollment have been provided to KTTN by North Central President Neil Nuttall who noted preliminary indicators describe a "level" enrollment overall.

Enrollment this fall for all types of students is listed at 17-hundred and 86. That is down by 16 students from last year—which is a difference of less than one percent. Last year's fall enrollment of 18-hundred and 20 was 30 fewer than the 2010 year when enrollment reached 18-hundred and 32.

College President Nuttall pointed out many colleges have experienced declines with fall enrollment—some of them by as much as 12 percent. But comparing to 2008, (1,402 then) the number of N-C-M-C students is UP by more than 27 percent. An initial examination of this years' enrollment data, according to Doctor Nuttall, leads him to believe that changes to the federal PELL grant program have caused students to take fewer classes. Some students, he said, have become ineligible for the government funds.

Because the college has developed a new, on-line, dual-credit program with area high schools, Doctor Nuttall indicated the numbers have come in slower than usual. It was reported at a meeting of the N-C-M-C Board of Trustees there has been an increase of about 200 students in dual credit—largely attributed to having additional high schools participate with North Central.

Historical data on fall enrollment 2012 is 1,786; 2011 is 1,802; 2010 is 1,832; 2009 is 1,797; 2008 is 1,402.

The typical North Central Missouri College student this fall is UNDER 25 years of age; female; and a full-time freshman student. The demographics have been provided to KTTN about the 17-hundred 86 students taking classes with N-C-M-C of Trenton.

Regarding the student head count, 71 percent are 24 and younger; 69 percent are female; 62 percent are freshman, and 51 percent are enrolled on a full-time basis. Just under 99 percent of the student body is caucasian.

College President Neil Nuttall said a breakdown on number of students on campus, versus those taking classes on-line, is available in the spring.

According to stats provided by the Missouri Community College Association, N-C-M-C is among seven such schools in the state to report declines in the fall enrollment. The largest drops are for St. Louis, Jefferson, Mineral Area, and St. Charles—ranging from almost nine percent down to a six and a half percent drop. The biggest gainer from a year ago is Three Rivers Community College — up by more than 13 percent.

Overall, the state of Missouri's one dozen community colleges collectively experienced a drop in head count by nearly two percent, but going back to the fall of 2006, community college enrollment is up a whopping 38 percent in Missouri.

For North Central Missouri College, the same period shows an increase of 22 percent in fall enrollment. Biggest gains are by Crowder, State Fair, Three Rivers, Moberly, and Ozarks Technical (all above a 50% increase).