



NEWS

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For Immediate Release: Sept. 10, 2009

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Interest in mechanical engineering degree surpasses expectations

Grand Junction – Mesa State College officials have been pleasantly surprised by the response to the new mechanical engineering degree it is offering in conjunction with the University of Colorado at Boulder.

“There has been surprisingly strong interest in our new mechanical engineering partnership program with the University of Colorado at Boulder,” said Mesa State President Tim Foster. “It was hoped we would have 10-15 students in the inaugural cohort and nearly 50 have signed up.”

The impact of the greater-than-expected can be seen in increased enrollment in calculus, physics and computer-aided drafting and design (CAD). A new section was added to accommodate the increase in the number of CAD students.

MSC Associate Professor Gigi Richard, MSC Faculty Coordinator for mechanical engineering, and Instructor Brigitte Wilson work closely with CU-Boulder and travel to Boulder at least once a month to ensure the curriculum meets CU standards. Both hold engineering degrees.

“We were pleasantly surprised by the unexpected high enrollment in the new program this year,” Richard said. “We’re looking forward to teaching the new hands-on design class beginning in January with these bright and highly motivated students.”

Wilson said the small class sizes make the program at Mesa State attractive to students, who benefit educationally.

“Teaching the CAD software engineering class this fall has already been exciting due to the students’ desire to further their education and opportunities,” Wilson said.

The innovative partnership with CU-Boulder allows western Colorado students access to a world-class education they may not otherwise have been able to receive by offering the entire four-year engineering degree program in Grand Junction. Students will matriculate through the program offered entirely on the MSC campus, receiving MSC instruction and classes their first two years and then primarily CU-Boulder coursework for their final two years.

By sharing costs, sharing faculty, and collaborating on laboratory and technology needs for a rigorous and demanding program, MSC and CU-Boulder will be able to graduate top-tier engineers ready for work in a variety of different applied professional fields, such as construction, architecture, energy development and more.

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