

FOUNDATION ENHANCES STUDENT LIFE AT CHARLOTTE

The life of a college student is a juggling act. Balancing class, studying, family and work is extremely tough. To receive a well-rounded college experience, it is important to have time for socialization with other students. The Student Government Association on the Charlotte Campus felt that there was a great need to enhance the all-around college experience for Edison students starting with a central gathering place for students.

The existing student lounge was updated in order to give the students a more accommodating space to study and to interact with each other. With that, space was increased and equipment was upgraded. The lounge is now constantly full of students studying, playing games, watching television and engaging in conversation.

"It is exciting to see the constant buzz of activity in the updated student lounge area," said Edison Student Development Specialist Michelle Fanslau. "Many students choose to come to socialize even when they don't have classes scheduled. I know our student activities will continue to grow to meet the extra and co-curricular needs of our students".

In addition to the lounge being updated, students now have an increased variety of student events, clubs and organizations to enjoy. The Charlotte campus has added a beach volleyball league and a multicultural club, and a step team is in the works. The drama program has been approved and improved.

All of these wonderful new happenings wouldn't be possible without funding from the Mabel Keys Endowment. "The Keys Endowment also enabled us to improve the quality of the drama program with more challenging scripts and improved sets, and provided scholarships to outstanding student actors", said Charlotte County Campus President Dr. Patricia Land.

State Approves Two More Bachelor Degree Programs at Edison

Edison College has received approval from the Florida Board of Education for two new bachelor degree programs in secondary education. Edison officials worked closely with local education leaders to respond to a critical need in the community.

In June 2006, Edison College District President Dr. Kenneth Walker hosted a meeting of the region's public school superintendents who identified a growing need for teachers, especially in the critical subject areas of science and mathematics. The consensus among the group was that secondary education programs at Edison would offer new options to local students who would like to pursue the field of education and also meet the needs of the largest employers in southwest Florida—the school districts.

"The mission of Edison College is to meet the needs of the community and to provide access to anyone who wants a college education," said Walker. "There are many students who need a baccalaureate degree but can't attend a university. Edison College is among numerous community colleges that have reinvented themselves to become four-year, open door colleges in order to meet the demands of their communities and a globally-competitive environment in the 21st century."

Administrators from Edison and Florida Gulf Coast University worked closely in developing the new programs. Students will actually take three upper-division classes from FGCU in order to complete the degree. Edison's District Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Noreen Thomas, said the process was a very collaborative one.

"Rather than duplicate courses, we built on the strengths of each institution and combined them to achieve the best possible outcome for the student," said Thomas. She and her counterparts at FGCU began working on this initiative last summer because everyone involved wanted to do more to "grow our own" teachers in southwest Florida.

Edison College students will soon be able to earn a four-year bachelor's degree in secondary education in either mathematics for grades 6-12 or biology for grades 6-12. The first upper-division classes for the new bachelor's degrees are planned for the Fall 2008 semester.

Foundation Features

SPRING 2007

AN UPDATE FOR FRIENDS OF EDISON COLLEGE

Gift Establishes Richard H. Rush Library at Lee Campus



▲ District Board Chairman Mary Lee Mann and President Ken Walker congratulate Richard and Julia Rush on naming the Richard H. Rush Library.

Dr. Richard H. and Julia Rush of North Fort Myers are creating a learning legacy at Edison College's Lee Campus in Fort Myers with a \$2.3 million gift to endow library resources and student scholarships. In tribute, the Edison College District Board of Trustees has named the library facility the Richard H. Rush Library.

The gift coincides with a major twenty-first century-style renovation to the 38-year old library. Construction will commence in July 2007 and will include a cyber café, study areas, classrooms and conference centers, and state-of-the-art multi-media and information technology resources.

The Rushes are long time supporters of the College, first funding the original garden flanking the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall. They added an exquisite bronze statue of Romeo and Juliet to the garden in 1994. Always eager to assist students and advance the arts, the Rushes also provide an annual art scholarship and student art show awards. "In this life, we want to do everything we can to help others," said Mrs. Rush.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 6, 2007	Good Friday, College Closed
April 12, 2007	President's Scholarship Breakfast, Charlotte Campus
May 4, 2007	Lee Campus and Charlotte Campus Graduation*
May 6, 2007	Collier Campus Graduation*

*(see www.edison.edu for times and locations)

EDISON COLLEGE FOUNDATION OFFICES:

District/Lee Campus	239/489-9210
Charlotte Campus	941/637-5604
Collier Campus	239/732-3718

\$11.3 MILLION PROJECT PLANNED FOR COLLIER COUNTY CAMPUS

A group of local and statewide leaders in health care and education developed a partnership that will bring two new programs and \$11.3 million in new construction to Edison College's Collier campus. The project was made possible thanks to a gift of \$5.65 million from the Naples Children and Education Foundation (NCEF), which produces the hugely successful Naples Winter Wine Festival.

This project plans call for the construction of two new buildings on the Collier campus. One will be a 10,000 square foot building that will house child development services and an early childhood education program. The other will be a 20,000 square foot state-of-the-art pediatric dental facility that will be part of the University of Florida College of Dentistry's Statewide Network for Community Oral Health.

The University of Florida (UF) dental program at Edison College will provide specialized dental treatment to Collier County's Medicaid-eligible children. Once the program reaches full capacity, it is expected to provide 15,000 patient visits each year. The resulting programs are designed to aid the estimated 17,000 Collier county children who lack access to dental care and the nearly 45 percent of the county's children who enter kindergarten at risk of failing.

According to NCEF Chairman Scott Lutgert, these two building projects represent an unprecedented collaborative effort. "We are extremely pleased that through collaboration with the University of Florida and Edison College we are able to double funding for the benefit of the community and put more than \$11 million toward helping children in areas of their greatest need. It is a wonderful example of the sum being greater than its parts, and just one of the ways we hope to bring together diverse groups for the good of children in need".

"Edison College has a mission to change lives for the better, and this project accomplishes that on so many levels," said Edison College District President Dr. Kenneth Walker. "We have two state institutions of higher education working together to bring a unique program to southwest Florida, and there is tremendous synergy between the mission of the College and NCEF."

▼ 2007 Holland T. Salley LIFE Award recipients Scott and Raymond Lutgert.

