

'Advanced placement' available to vocational grads at 2 colleges

Graduates of Oakland County vocational high schools can save college time and costs under "advanced placement" agreements negotiated by the Oakland Intermediate School District.

Agreements have been negotiated with Oakland Community College and Ferris State College, Big Rapids. For example, a commercial arts student from the Northwest Oakland Vocational Education Center at Clarkston may be admitted with advanced standing of 3-9 credits after review of his or her portfolio, according to Dr. William Stuart, academic dean of Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills.

"WE GIVE the food service test devised by Ferris State College and other

tests for machine shop, office education, shorthand, typing, welding, distributive education (retailing) and accounting," Stuart said.

"The tests are free. They offer the qualified student a head start as well as a savings. Students need not repeat (in college) what they have already learned (in high school)," Stuart said.

The agreement between the Oakland Intermediate district and Ferris State covers dental assisting programs in the county's vocational schools at Walled Lake, Royal Oak and Clarkston. They were negotiated by Dr. Ruth Midjans of the intermediate district.

Ferris State also offers advanced placement in auto body, auto service mechanics, building construction, technical drafting, climate systems (refrig-

eration, heating and air conditioning), industrial electronics, machine tool, printing, heavy equipment service and welding.

Besides passing tests, high school graduates need a letter from their principal and, in some cases, a recommendation from a teacher for advanced placement.

STUART SAID OCC and the intermediate district "started with commercial art and moved to food service. We've just added accounting to the list."

"The negotiations for the advanced placement agreement are really

matching what is taught in the vocational school or high school with what is expected at the college entry level in a specific field."

OCC offers machine shop and welding programs at its Auburn Hills campus east of Pontiac.

"Not all students who apply can pass the tests, but a very good percentage do," Stuart said.

"I'd like to develop an agreement for radio and TV students as more high schools offer these programs. Reaching agreement course-by-course takes some time, but we have a very good start, and it's worth it."

Vendor list to be updated

Oakland County is updating its master vendor bid list to put all vendors' names on a central computer so they can be eligible for county jobs.

The master list will be updated twice a year.

To obtain a free copy of the county's booklet on procurement methods used within the governmental system, contact Oakland County Purchasing, 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac 48053 or call 858-0511.

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