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**DCCCD Will Offer Summer
Schedule and May Term;
Tuition Increase Approved**

(Dallas) – Students interested in courses offered by the Dallas County Community College District for its popular “Maymester” and summer I and II sessions will be able to enroll in classes this year, in spite of a state-mandated budget cut that has prompted DCCCD officials to explore ways to reduce costs and save money. While not all colleges in the district will offer all three sessions, students can enroll at any of DCCCD’s seven campuses. Students will begin to pay a \$4 per-credit-hour tuition increase, which was approved this week by the district’s board of trustees, effective with the Maymester term.

Because Texas faces a \$9.9 billion deficit, the Governor’s office issued a statewide mandate on Jan. 23 that requires all state agencies to reduce their budgets by 7 percent. DCCCD colleges and officials have responded by identifying \$6.9 million in budget cuts. Approximately two-thirds of the amount will come from the following areas: the tuition increase (now \$30 per semester credit hour, or \$90 for a three-hour course, beginning in May); a “soft” hiring freeze for non-faculty positions; drastic reduction in travel; deferment of technology expenses; and deferment of a capital improvements bond election. Each of the district’s seven colleges and additional centers or locations identified reductions that comprise the remaining one-third of the budget cuts requested.

“With this plan of action, we will continue to meet the needs of our students. The district’s enrollment has grown by 18.5 percent during the last two years, and we must support the increased cost of enrollment while we meet the state mandate to reduce expenditures. That’s tough to do,” said Dr. Bill Wenrich, DCCCD’s chancellor. “Long term, these cuts mean that our future growth might be hampered, particularly when the state of Texas has told colleges and universities to increase enrollments – especially among minority students – under its *Closing the Gaps* plan.

(more)

“Our ‘soft’ hiring freeze affects administrators and staff, but budget cuts also mean that we may not be able to hire as many part-time faculty – for summer classes in particular, this year, and perhaps into the next academic year,” Wenrich added. “As a result, we may have to offer fewer class sections than we have in the past, which directly affects our students and faculty. We also are cutting some expenditures in technology when we actually want to continue our leadership role in that area for students and in distance learning.”

DCCCD has no plans for employee layoffs; the “soft” hiring freeze means generally that the district will not fill vacant administrative and professional support staff positions.

“Bricks and mortar” classes for Maymester and summer I and II sessions will be offered but will vary, based on location: *May term and summer I* – Richland College; *May term, summer I and summer II* – Cedar Valley, Eastfield, El Centro and Mountain View; *summer I and summer II* – Brookhaven and North Lake. DCCCD students who normally would choose to attend classes at their primary college also can take courses at any other college in the district, which may be helpful for summer 2003 when they are looking for schedules and classes that meet their needs.

Or students can “click” for classes through DCCCD’s Dallas TeleCollege, offered by the LeCroy Center for Educational Telecommunications. The Dallas TeleCollege provides open enrollment courses in May, June and July. “Open enrollment courses are full, semester-length courses delivered at a distance, with no campus requirements, and they start every month,” explained Angela Auzenne, marketing and public information manager for Dallas TeleCollege. “Online student services are available. Telecourse PLUS, online, CD-ROM and multimedia formats are available to students through open enrollment courses, and the TeleCollege will offer classes for summer I and II sessions.”

For more information about Maymester or summer I and II sessions, contact the nearest DCCCD college for schedules and details. For information about the district’s effort to meet the state’s mandated budget reduction of 7 percent, contact Ann Hatch in the DCCCD office of marketing and communications at (214) 860-2478.

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