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CTC named sixth-largest college in Georgia

by Amanda Stegall

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Chattahoochee Technical College has been named the sixth-largest college or university in Georgia. The new status comes after the Atlanta Business Chronicle revised its list for 2011.

Moving up a spot since last year, CTC has officially bypassed Emory University, according to the new rankings.

"Our enrollment has been continuing to grow over the last several quarters," Chattahoochee Technical College President Dr. Sanford Chandler said. "This growth is an exciting challenge for us in our efforts to meet students' needs."

More than 13,000 students were enrolled during the fall and winter quarters, and Chandler is expecting an increase to 15,000 to 20,000 throughout the 2011 fiscal year.

"Basically one of the reasons we're so excited about this is it keeps us in league with some of the larger colleges and universities," said Rebecca Long, public relations specialist for CTC. "A lot of times people don't see us as a viable option for education. This shows that students are looking to us as an option for job training and core classes before they transfer to another institution."

CTC offers more than 100 programs at the degree, diploma and certificate levels, and serves six counties in the northwest region of the state.

The latest growth can be attributed to the merger of Appalachian, Chattahoochee and North Metro Technical colleges in 2009, which led to the creation of CTC as the largest technical college in Georgia. According to a press release, the college has experienced double-digit growth each quarter from less than 10,000 students post-merger to now more than 13,000.

Online and hybrid classes accompany traditional attendance as instructors and students continue to work together to provide a flexible schedule to accommodate the school's mostly nontraditional scholars.

"Our students come here to receive a quality education and that is what we provide for them," Chandler said in the release. "In addition to providing solid academics, we are affording our students the activities to build a strong student life at our campuses."

Beginning in August, CTC will implement a semester system as opposed to the current quarters. "We're not sure how that will affect enrollment numbers," Long said. "Also, the deadline to apply will be pushed up one month to July."

In an effort to engage students in more than a simply academic career, the school now offers clubs, student organizations, competitive activities, as well as intramural, club and intercollegiate athletics.

The college is also planning a new addition to the Bartow County area. Long stated that "there is a proposed logistics center we would like to build in Cartersville where some of the programs like commercial truck driving would take place."

Although the center is not included in the state budget, Long says that everyone at CTC is "remaining hopeful."

For more information on Chattahoochee Technical College, visit www.ChattahoocheeTech.edu or call 770-528-4545.

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