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College and Community Relations
619-644-7840 619-644-7090 (Fax)

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Contact: Nancy Davis, Student Development Services 619-644-7615
Lucinda Bartek, Adult Reentry Student Services 619-644-7697

REENTRY STUDENTS INVITED TO SPECIAL ORIENTATION

WORKSHOPS JANUARY 3 OR JANUARY 4

EL CAJON – New and potential students interested in learning more about the realities of college life as “reentry” adults are invited to attend a free orientation titled “Focus On The Journey...The Educational Element.” This is an advantageous time for adults to attend Grossmont College – enrollment fees have been reduced to \$20/unit for California residents.

Orientation participants may attend either Wednesday, January 3, 2007, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. or Thursday, January 4, 2007, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. on the Grossmont College campus. The free orientation will be held in the Griffin Gate area of the Student Center and is open to the public.

The Grossmont College Adult Reentry Center has found that students who attend an orientation develop a comfort level with college programs and procedures – an excellent “first step” and a great foundation for college success! For adults who are currently employed, Grossmont College provides mid- and high-level training for new jobs and retraining for those who are interested in changing career directions. People from other countries can also attend Grossmont College to study American Collegiate English (ACE), or English as a Second

Language (ESL), to improve their study skills, or to train for a new career path here in the United States.

According to Dean C. Colli, Ed.D., Grossmont College interim president, “We take pleasure in welcoming reentry adult students with these special orientation opportunities, designed to allay concerns about returning to the classroom. It is one of many specialized services we offer at Grossmont College to help students find new careers, advance in their present work, or continue along an educational path that may have been interrupted along the way. For such students, “Someday is now,” especially with our new lower enrollment fees.”

Speakers, including peer panelists, will describe their experiences as returning students, and will offer tips on making the transition back into the classroom. Information on admission procedures, counseling, telephone and Web registration, financial aid, job placement and more will be provided.

Among the student panelists to be featured is Joseph Swearngin, who has been attending Grossmont College since he was discharged from the United States Navy after his five-year enlistment ended July, 2004. Swearngin, a native of Missouri, heartily endorses the tutoring services at Grossmont College as an assist to students facing reentry into the educational system, “My entry into the unfamiliar.” A physics major, he is enthusiastic about preparing for transfer and says, “I am standing at the threshold of my future. An entirely new college experience awaits me and I am ecstatic about the opportunity.”

Tammy Harmon has been married for 18 years and is the parent of four children, ranging in age from four to 17. Now, she is one semester away from her college degree in Child Development/Early Childhood Education. “I caught the knowledge bug. It wasn’t easy trying to juggle my family, job and studies that first semester but I was enjoying the learning and that kept

me motivated. I have gained the insight that life will never give me the opportunity to be less busy than I am right now, so busy is not a legitimate excuse for postponing my goals.”

Harmon plans to complete a bachelor’s degree and to open a large childcare facility, possibly several. Eventually, she will obtain a master’s degree and would like to return to Grossmont College to teach Child Development.

Terry Kim is a non-traditional student from South Korea, who intends to complete a bachelor of science degree in computer engineering and eventually a master’s degree, which she will use “to create more convenient and suitable software and hardware for various users.”

Although Kim’s educational journey has been interrupted by economic recessions in Korea and by cultural and political impediments, she believes “adversity in life stops you from achieving your goals only when you let it do so. Neither of my parents finished even junior high school because of poverty, but they always emphasized the importance of getting a good education.”

Kim is the recipient of the 2006 Grossmont College Foundation’s Outstanding Scholar award. She works as an in-class tutor in the Computer Science Department and as computer tutor at the College’s English Writing Center.

Prospective students may RSVP for the orientation by leaving a voice mail message at the Adult Reentry Office at 619-644-7697 or 619-644-7615. They may also sign up at the door January 3 or January 4. Free parking is available and participants are encouraged to park in Lot 5. Individuals may apply for admission by using the College website www.Grossmont.edu at any time, or in person at the Admissions and Records Office beginning January 3.

Grossmont College is located at 8800 Grossmont College Drive, El Cajon. A campus map and driving directions are available at the Grossmont College website: www.grossmont.edu.

