

ALS program seeks funding

■ **SUPPORT:** Federally aided program offers students help to succeed in academics

By Tamyra Howser
Higher Education Reporter

The Education Opportunities Program is seeking to renew its federal grant to continue services for non-traditional students this October.

The program, part of Academic Learning Services, is the only federally funded service that is designed to help low-income students, first-generation students or students with disabilities succeed academically and to ensure graduation from the University.

Competition for the grant can be intense, but Education Opportunities Program Associate Director Deb Casey believes that the University supports students with special needs.

"One of the reasons why we are unique is because of the recognition of the quality of the University," she said. "We recognize the need and support, and we know how to provide it. We identify the need and increase its service."

The EOP provides comprehensive academic instruction and counseling, such as helping students improve study and research skills.

"This program helps students feel more secure and connected ... so they don't feel alone," Casey said. "It helps them to become part of the community and make the climate more friendly."

A new emphasis is being placed on supporting EOP students through graduate school and helping them make a successful transition from school to a job, Casey said.

Another ALS program designed to provide support for specially admitted high school students is the Undergraduate Support Program.

"The program setup is to admit students who don't meet normal admission standards," said USP Coordinator Dave Croft. "Sometimes, the SATs or high school GPAs are not accurate predictors of college success. It's a chance to prove they can succeed."

Such students do have to push extra hard to be admitted to this program, Croft said. Normally, the student is nominated by his or her high school counselor and agrees to take certain classes at the University.

"The idea is to give them help and additional instruction such as how to take exams, taking good notes, time management and learning to use resources," he said. "The notion is not throwing (students) into the University."

Croft is also an ALS individual consultant, who is able to talk to any student regarding scheduling or exam-taking questions or any stress-related problems.

If students need help with math, foreign languages, chemistry, economics and physics, they can join small group tutoring sessions for \$80. For classes that don't have an on-going demand for tutoring, ALS offers a database of names of tutors who can help.

For teachers and graduate teaching fellows, the Teaching Effectiveness Program centers on teaching strategies. It not only helps build stronger teaching techniques, it also "develops new approaches and try out new ideas," said Georgeanne Cooper, coordinator of TEP.

St. Thomas More University Parish The Newman Center

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SPECIAL HAPPENINGS:

Sunday, September 29th

SPECIAL WELCOME for all NEW and TRANSFER STUDENTS following the Sunday 7:30 Mass. Join us in a get acquainted "ice cream/smoothie" social. All welcome.

Wednesday, October 2nd

Our First of the year - Wednesday 9:00 p.m. Mass and social. This is what you are looking for to make this year the very BEST!

Sunday, October 6th

WELCOME SUNDAY to begin the new school year. Welcome festivities begin with a superb supper at 5:45 p.m. At 7:30 p.m. we will open the year with the Mass of the Holy Spirit. Everyone is invited.

Friday, October 11th

Mass for the Gay/Lesbian Community members at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 13

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS. Open to all who desire to know more about the Catholic Faith and to those who would like to be a member of the Catholic Church.

November 1-3

FALL RETREAT for students at McKenzie Bridge.

SCHEDULE OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday: 5:00PM

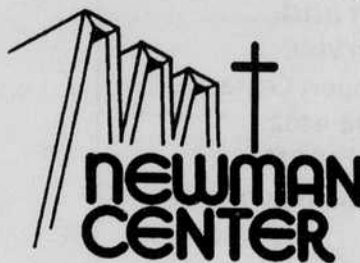
Sunday: 9:00AM, 11:00AM & 7:30PM Student Mass

Monday-Friday: 5:00PM Mass

Wednesdays: Student Mass & Social at 9:00 PM

Fridays: 7:30PM Mass for Gay/Lesbian Community members

Reconciliation: Saturday at 4:30PM or by appointment



STAFF

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