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News

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## A New Educational Opportunity for Cape Girardeau Students

Thanks to the work of business and educational leaders in our community, students in our community now have a new quality educational opportunity. Cape Girardeau County's first community college, the Cape Girardeau Partnership for Higher Education, will begin offering classes this fall at the Cape Girardeau Career and Technology Center. The community college is a partnership between Three Rivers Community College, Mineral Area College, and Southeast Missouri State University.

In December, organizers received approval from the Coordinating Board for Higher Education to enact a plan to bring



community college services to the county. This was the culmination of two years of planning, studying local demand, and working to reach an agreement between Three Rivers Community College, Southeast Missouri State, Mineral Area Community College, Southeast Missouri

Hospital College of Nursing and Health Sciences, and the Cape Girardeau School District, which owns the Career and Technology Center. Course work is applicable to an Associate of Arts degree offered by Three Rivers Community College. Mineral Area Community College provides the technical portion of all Associate of Applied Science degree programs. The Cape Girardeau Partnership for Higher Education service region includes the Advance, Cape Girardeau, Chaffee, Delta, Jackson, Kelso, Leopold, Oak Ridge, Scott City, Scott County, and Woodland public school districts.



Open houses held throughout the summer showed a significant interest in this new educational opportunity. While facilities could expand, four classrooms and an office at the Cape Girardeau Career and Technology Center make up the school. Forty-four courses are planned to begin on Aug 23. These courses include general education requirements including biology, English, government, and algebra.

Small class sizes, lower costs, and an easy transition to a four-year school are some of the reasons why students are attracted to the Partnership. Students are also able to use A+ funding, a state program that pays for two years of community college for qualifying students. Missouri community colleges have been experiencing growth with Mineral Area Community College enrolling 800 students last year, while Three Rivers Community College is up 400 students.

More information on the Partnership, including enrollment information and a full list of courses available, call (573) 332-0516 or visit the Cape Girardeau Partnership for Higher Education's website at [www.semo.edu/cgphe](http://www.semo.edu/cgphe). This is an exciting opportunity for students in the Cape Girardeau area, and I look forward to seeing its success.

### **Contact Me**

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions, and concerns. Please feel

free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: [jcrowell@senate.mo.gov](mailto:jcrowell@senate.mo.gov) or visit me on the web at <http://www.senate.mo.gov/crowell>.

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