

Media Release

from the desk of Liz Silvers, Early College Liaison

Mayland Early College High School Students Begin College Classes

According to Dr. William A. Nolen, "College is a place where a student ought to learn not so much how to make a living, but how to live." Students enrolled in the Mayland Early College High School has taken a giant first step in their college career and learning to live. Beginning January 7, 2010, thirty-one students roamed the halls of the Phillips building looking for their first two college classes, ACA 111 College Student Success and CIS 110, Introduction to Computers.

"Even high school freshmen know a great opportunity when they see it," said Liz Silvers, Mayland Early College Liaison and ACA 111 Instructor. "Generally, only in hindsight do college graduates realize, in completeness the value and opportunity of a college education. However, these MECHS students are already ahead of the game."

One of the first assignments in ACA 111 is to go through a self assessment to identify and examine the personal choices of the successful student. As with most students, the assignment begins with groaning and complaining. However, the students quickly get down to work when they realize they must use this assessment to complete their first three page journal assignment.

"Surprisingly the students took this first assignment very seriously and explored their personal choices and feelings. This self awareness enables them make wise choices about what to keep doing and what to change to be a successful college student," said Silvers.

Fourteen year old college student Victoria Riddle reflected in her journal, "I learned that doing good in school is the best thing to do to get your life started. But, I also learned that sometimes I learn things the hard way, which helps me in life sometimes."

Similarly, Greg Shepherd agreed with Riddle, "Self-motivation and self-management are two areas that I scored well on. I have to be self-motivated so I can make good grades and be successful in life. If I was not self-motivated I would currently be failing and I would not have had the opportunity to attend the Mayland Early College High School."

Sabrina Brewer truly dove deeply into her thoughts and feelings with her results on the assessment. "I believe I am at a point in my life where I am just starting to discover who I am and the talents that God has given me. I hope to make a positive influence..."

Overall, the students were very mature in their first assignments and continue to grow as the semester progresses. "I think back to when I was fourteen...college was the furthest thing from my mind," said Keegan Anderson, MCC computer instructor. "To see these kids moving forward, growing and learning every day is a remarkable thing. They are beginning to learn about personal responsibility and the role that it plays in their college career and life."

Jessica Phillips, a young lady who like her Early College peers, is taking two college classes this semester, sums it up best. "I came to Mayland Early College because I wanted to make a better future for myself, get a good job and live well. At first I didn't want to come because I wanted to stay with my friends at MHHS, but the more I thought about it I realized I wanted to do more with my life. Now that I'm in Early College, I am proud of myself and what I am doing to better my life."

Mayland Early College High School is already gearing up for next year. Visits have been planned to each middle school in Avery, Mitchell and Yancey Counties, with our current students being the star recruiters. If you have questions about the Early College and its mission, please call (828) 765-7351, ext. 301.