

RMCC and SAU form Agriculture Partnership



Rich Mountain Community College (RMCC) and Southern Arkansas University (SAU) have joined together to offer the necessary classes for students to work toward a degree in agriculture while attending class on the RMCC campus beginning this fall.

RMCC is continually looking for opportunities to help the students of the area further their education. Through this partnership with SAU, citizens of the area will be able to earn an Associate of Arts degree at RMCC, and then do approximately 80% of the class work required for a bachelor degree at the RMCC campus.

Dr. Wayne Hatcher, RMCC President stated, "SAU has been an ardent supporter of RMCC graduates for many years. Through transfer scholarships, many RMCC students have finished with us and gone straight to Magnolia. With the agriculture partnership added to the mix, SAU is again bringing the necessary classes for a BSE degree home to our students." Dr. Hatcher continued, "RMCC and SAU introduced a similar program with the P-4 education program several years ago, and the opportunity to find other partnerships in the future is definitely an interest to both institutions."

With regard to the financial aspect of the four SAU agriculture classes embedded in the RMCC AA or AGS degree, Dr. Brian Canfield of SAU stated, "RMCC students enrolled in the initial four agri courses taught at RMCC will pay the RMCC tuition rate to SAU. SAU will then provide a scholarship reflecting the difference between RMCC and SAU tuition rates. Students continuing in the SAU bachelor degree program after completion of the RMCC degree will pay full SAU tuition, subject to any available scholarships on the same consideration level as other SAU students."

Dr. David Rankin, SAU President, shared, "We hope to provide a seamless transition for students in the agriculture partnership, and at the same time increase the rate of transfer students from RMCC to SAU." In further discussing the opportunities offered by SAU, it was pointed out that agriculture has a strong history at SAU, but the university offers a diversity of opportunities for students. Within the agriculture program itself there are jobs and careers to be found through agri science, agri business, and agri education degrees.

Pictured are those attending the official announcement of the agriculture partnership: Sandra Walker, Dr. Penny Haase-Wittler, Dr. Brian Canfield, Dr. David Rankin, Dr. Steve Rook, Dr. Wayne Hatcher, Phillip Wilson, Maureen Keese, and Brenda Gillogly.