



Rich Mountain Community College was recently notified that the college's five year grant to fund its Educational Opportunity Center was renewed. Senator Mark Pryor and Representative Mike Ross notified EOC Director, Tammye Sherrill, that the grant had been funded for \$408,555 annually beginning September 2011 and continuing through August 2012. The funding would continue for five years for a total of \$2.04 million.

The EOC Program is a 100 percent U. S. Department of Education funded-grant. The EOC programs goal is to increase the number of adult students enrolled in and completing postsecondary education programs. The program provides assistance with completion of financial aid applications, assistance with admissions applications, personal and career counseling, as well as financial literacy/basic financial planning training. EOC is one of eight federally TRIO Programs that provide outreach services and programs specifically targeted toward low-income, first-generation and disabled students. A new initiative for EOC this year will be to extend additional services to military-connected students. President Phillip Wilson stated "EOC offers valuable services to the students served as they begin their path to completion of post secondary education. The services provided by this program are vital to the residents of the Ouachita Mountain Region and are a necessary part of the plan to reach the Governor Beebe's goal to double Arkansas degree attain level by 2025."

Tammye Sherrill, Director of the EOC Program, stated that the program is funded to serve 1,400 students and is operational in five counties, Scott, Polk, Montgomery, Howard and Sevier. Outreach representatives are available at RMCC campuses in Mena, Waldron, and the newly opened center in Mount Ida. This grant also provides an outreach representative to Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas located at the Nashville site.

For more information about the EOC program or to inquire about admission assistance or financial aid to attend college call the representative nearest you. Scott County 479-637-5502, Polk County 479-394-79622 ext 1644, Montgomery County 870-867-5264 or Howard and Sevier Counties contact Grover Hill 870-845-2454.