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Wednesday, September 26, 2007

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An advertisement for AAA Office Imaging. It features a logo on the left with the text 'AAA Office Imaging (901) 386-3870' and 'Bartlett Express » News'. To the right are three images of different office copier models.

National College to hold grand opening

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A new college has opened its doors within the city of Bartlett, and students are already filling the halls eager with the opportunity to better themselves.

The National College of Business and Technology at 5760 Stage Rd. began holding classes in June, and since that time, all of the enrollment goals have been exceeded making the admissions office, faculty and staff pleased beyond measure.

"We already have right at 100 students," said campus director Dr. Loyd Williford. "We are first within the entire college system in enrollment goal percentage. We couldn't be more thrilled." Nationwide there are 24 campuses, including one other campus on Lamar Ave. in Memphis. The Bartlett campus is set to service the entire Bartlett area. However, the college is not just for interested students. The goal is to be a force for area businesses as well, helping to build a stronger, better educated workforce for the community.

"Our career counselor coordinator helps to establish internships and externships with area businesses, we plan on being at community meetings, establishing close relationships with area businesses and being a strong part of the community," Williford said. "Our number one customers are businesses and the students."

Rise Reading, the Community Resource Coordinator, said within the coming months the college will



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be developing an advisory council of area business leaders in order to learn what the needs are for the Bartlett area corporations.

"We want to teach the skills in our classroom that are necessary for the workplace locally, so it will be easier to both find employment for our students once they graduate and improve the community workforce," she said. "It does no good to teach skills that won't be used on the job."

The college prides itself on being a family for life for every graduate. Not only is job placement offered for graduates when they complete their education, but also each graduate can come back and use the resources available to find a new job or career at any point after graduation free of charge.

"We pride ourselves in being there for our students, whether it's while they are here learning, or after they've entered the workforce," Reading said.

Reading and Williford also both stressed that the college does not just teach one set of skills to a student. For example, a medical technology student will learn the basics of checking blood pressure and the other necessary skills for the job. However, the student would also learn basic business and computer skills, because it is a necessary part of any job in the 21st century.

"We require knowing all facets of business such as computers, business management, communication skills, etc.," Williford said. "We want to setup our students so they can not only enter the field of their choice, but also prosper in it. Hopefully, they will leave here with the ability to move up in their chosen fields."

The college has already started its fall semester, and next Tuesday, Sept. 18 from noon to 3 p.m. the college will be holding its official grand opening ceremonies. To prove their commitment to the Bartlett community, the event is being catered by local restaurant Yazoo's, and the college is also participating in the Bartlett Celebration event.

"We are looking forward to playing a strong role in this community," Williford said.

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