

Grant allows Valley College to update its Web offerings

BY CONNIE LLANOS, Staff Writer
LA Daily News

Article Last Updated:10/03/2007 10:01:06 PM PDT

NORTH HOLLYWOOD - Laptops, online counseling sessions and hybrid nursing classes are just some of the new perks Los Angeles Valley College will be offering in the next few years using a \$2.8million grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

The grant - awarded to 15 community colleges nationwide - will be disbursed in five annual installments. Valley College will have five years to develop the expanded online and distance education program, Valley College President Tyree Weider said.

"Today, students don't have time, and we need to be able to get to them 24/7," Weider said. "This is not even the wave of the future - it's the wave of now, and this is our way of keeping up."

Plans for the grant include funding more nursing classes, which are among the college's most popular courses.

And as early as next year, nursing students will be able to take some "hybrid" lab courses that will only require students to come to campus occasionally.

The grant also will boost online counseling sessions and tutoring, said Yasmin Delahoussaye, vice president of student services at Valley College.

Delahoussaye said increasing the school's digital offerings is needed to stay competitive as more schools continue to take their courses to the Web.

According to the American Association of Community Colleges, nearly half of the nation's colleges are offering online counseling sessions and tutoring sessions.

To ensure that all students have access to the online services, Valley College is also planning to use \$100,000 to buy new laptops for its ongoing computer-loan program, Delahoussaye said.

Valley also plans to offer an online associate's degree in liberal arts and certifications in child development and computer technology.

"The demand for distance education has been growing by leaps and bounds, and colleges are moving more and more toward online learning," Delahoussaye said. "We are adjusting to the demands of our student population."

connie.llanos@dailynews.com

(818) 713-3634

Copyright ©2007 Los Angeles Newspaper Group.

Close Window

Send To Printer