

College Now at Southwest Minnesota State University has enjoyed a long history of partnering with Minnesota and neighboring states' high schools. Active since 1984 in concurrent enrollment, the move in the 2008-09 academic year toward accreditation represented a significant transformation for *College Now*, both in policy and function. As a result, *College Now* has drawn upon 25 years of service to enhance the integrity of the program, to better serve partnering schools, and to ensure the rigor of our offerings.



SMSU's *College Now* laid the groundwork for many of the rapidly-expanding programs in our state. According to Scott Staska, ROCORI Superintendent in the *Cold Spring Record*, "SMSU has been one of the leaders in extending college credit to the high schools." In August, *College Now* submitted its application for national accreditation; and we eagerly await word from our NACEP review team. Once accredited, we will continue our efforts to increase the integrity and to ensure the rigor of the program. We also will continue to participate in state and national efforts to promote concurrent enrollment.

We offer courses in many disciplines, with hundreds of teachers, to serve thousands of students. The 2009-10 *College Now* academic year offers 29 courses, 104 cooperating high schools, and more than 4,500 students participating in our program. *College Now* courses have been accepted all over the United States and the world, at institutions ranging from the University of Minnesota to Harvard, Yale, and Oxford. *College Now* employs the expertise of experienced university professors who closely mentor highly-qualified high school teachers. Our commitment to student progress and success simply is unmatched.



College Now uses only professors to mentor high school teachers

SMSU's commitment to concurrent enrollment has the potential to provide all of our cooperating high schools with exciting, rigorous opportunities that prepare students for successful academic careers. Dr. Bob Slaba, Canby High School Principal says, "The relationship Canby has with *College Now* is one of the most vital connections we can have to higher education. Our students are better prepared for college, feel more confident, and demonstrate better academic progress in all their classes as a result of taking *College Now* courses." Furthermore, in contrast to an AP course (which is a high school class), our *College Now*



College Now participants receive hands on, university experiences – exactly the same as our on campus courses

courses are equal in every respect to our on campus courses.

Southwest Minnesota State University is a four-year, public university, offering a high-quality education in the liberal arts and the professions, to prepare students for a life that is successful and gratifying both personally and professionally. SMSU has grown into a



Sweetland Hall the new 252-bed, \$11.5 million, three-story residence hall opens fall 2009.

university of choice, with outstanding national rankings, producing scholars who become the leaders, thinkers, and entrepreneurs of the future. Students and faculty alike come here to engage in the rich "Southwest Experience," which starts with strong academics, fulfilling social opportunities, and support from fellow Mustangs. The university provides an excellent education at an affordable price, offering 50 undergraduate majors, 44 minors, four associate-degree majors, and four master's programs. For more information about SMSU and *College Now* you can access our webpage at: [College Now!](#)