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For immediate release

OC Adult Basic Education faced with over crowded classrooms, outdated technology, and need of belonging to main campus

ODESSA (Oct. 14, 2010) – Odessa College’s Adult Basic Education program serves more than 900 students each year. They assist them in learning English and progressing upward through basic and secondary education to achieve GEDs and more, all while encouraging them to continue their educational success at Odessa College.

Recently, Texas LEARNS announced Odessa College’s Adult Basic Education program would be recognized in February 2011 for meeting 100 percent of its Educational Functioning Level Performance Measure Targets for 2009-2010 for the fifth straight year. These standards are related to academic completions, level advances, GED achievers, participant gains and retention of non-completers, according to John Tucker, OC adult basic education chair.

It is this kind of program success Odessa College would like to see continue, but it is getting harder and harder with the program’s lack of belonging to Odessa College’s main campus, over crowded classrooms and outdated technology.

“Currently, the OC Adult Basic Education program is not housed on the main campus due to a lack of space. Even though it is just across University from the main campus, we really don’t have a sense of belonging to Odessa College,” Tucker said. “Those who are preparing for their GED need closer access to other programs on campus so they can be oriented and motivated to continue to post secondary once they have the GED.”

Through Phase One of the Odessa College Facilities Master Plan, which would be funded by the bond measure, these needs are addressed, according to Dr. Tanya Hughes, OC chief of staff.

“Currently in the Annex Buildings where Adult Basic Education is housed, students are faced with severely crowded classrooms, inadequate restroom facilities, no place to congregate and mix with other students except in the parking lots, outdated technology in the labs and classrooms, and a lack of space to hold state mandated orientation and testing sessions required at the beginning of each semester,” Hughes said adding, “The students have limited

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access to Odessa College activities that would promote transition to college following a GED, and a feeling of belonging to Odessa College.”

“If Odessa College were able to move the program onto the main campus with the plans outlined in Phase One of the Facilities Master Plan, we foresee additional enrollment, rapid progress and increased transition to college programs that will benefit the students and Odessa employers,” Tucker said.

Being on campus will promote more contact from student services, counseling, and OC students to reinforce the importance and availability of post secondary education or certificate programs to prepare for the workforce, according to Tucker.

“We need updated rooms and technology to empower our students and allow for accelerated progress. With the additional technology and software, more students will be able to progress and succeed,” he said.