Palmetto College opens transfer center in Lexington

Columbia, S.C. – Palmetto College, a part of the University of South Carolina system, is expanding its recruitment efforts in Lexington County with the launch of a new transfer center.

The transfer center will be housed on the Lexington Middle School campus, in a building that is separate from that school’s student population. At the site, prospective adult students can learn about Palmetto College Online bachelor’s degree completion programs, and parents can learn more about how their high school students can take advantage of dual credit programs to earn early college credit.

“We’re delighted to partner with Lexington town and county officials, and with Lexington School District One and other area school districts to extend opportunities to Lexington County residents to either complete a bachelor’s degree online or enroll their students in high school dual credit programs,” said USC Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins. “This transfer center will provide information and assistance on affordable and accessible options for families seeking to learn about how Palmetto College can help them to begin college while in high school or finish a bachelor’s degree online.”

Palmetto College’s growing relationship with the Town of Lexington and Lexington County extends back to shortly after the division’s 2013 launch, representing online bachelor’s degree completion enrollment among working adults in a partnership with the Lexington County Public Library System and through dual credit programs for area high school students in a partnership between area school districts and Regional Palmetto Colleges.

The transfer student center will serve as a recruitment hub for working adults in the area who are seeking to learn more about how they can complete an unfinished bachelor’s degree or move forward beyond just an associate degree. At the center, prospective students will be able to learn more about the 13 online bachelor’s degree completion programs offered through Palmetto College Online and receive transcript evaluations.

The Palmetto College Transfer Center will open for its first information session on Tuesday, Nov. 13, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. The center will subsequently be open weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. To learn more about upcoming events, information sessions and webinars, visit www.palmettocollege.sc.edu or call (888) 801-1053.

“We are excited to welcome Palmetto College to the Town of Lexington.” said Lexington Mayor Steve MacDougall. “Our children are served by one of the premier school districts in the state and now have the opportunity to advance their education prior to leaving high school through dual credit programs. Also, having Palmetto College in the heart of downtown provides our citizens a perfect location to learn more about bachelor’s degree completion or tackle new subjects to advance their career path.”
During the past Spring 2018 semester, 81 Lexington County residents were enrolled in Palmetto College’s online bachelor’s degree completion programs, and 38 residents have graduated with degrees from USC Aiken, USC Beaufort, USC Columbia and USC Upstate through Palmetto College Online.

Dual credit enrollment for some Lexington County high school students previously existed; however, the initiative has expanded greatly within the past few years through a new partnership with Lexington School District One. Courses are taught by faculty from selected Palmetto College Campuses, including USC Sumter and USC Lancaster. USC Sumter faculty taught 113 students at Lexington High School during the Spring 2018 semester. In Lexington-Richland School District Five, USC Lancaster faculty taught 78 students from Chapin and Irmo High Schools during the Spring 2018 semester.

“Palmetto College has been a wonderful partner in our growing dual enrollment programs over the last two years, and we are thrilled to expand our partnership by offering this wonderful opportunity to our community,” said Lexington District One Superintendent Gregory Little. “Having higher education in Lexington District One is a real game-changer, and I am excited about what the future holds.”

Palmetto College has also had an existing partnership with the Lexington County Public Library System for the past few years in which Palmetto College has held information sessions and offered brochures to library patrons regarding available online bachelor’s degree completion programs at various branch locations.

USC Palmetto College encompasses associate degree-granting campuses and online bachelor’s degree completion programs, with the goal of making a University of South Carolina education more accessible, affordable and flexible for all South Carolinians. This is accomplished through online bachelor’s degree completion programs and two-year Regional Palmetto Colleges throughout the state that enable students to start their education wherever they are, without having to relocate or commute long distance to reach their goals. Those regional Palmetto Colleges include USC Lancaster, USC Salkehatchie, USC Sumter and USC Union with affiliated sites in Laurens, Fort Jackson and Shaw Air Force Base. Regional Palmetto College graduates and others who have completed an associate degree or its equivalent can extend their education through one of 13 bachelor’s degree completion programs offered via the USC System’s three comprehensive universities (USC Aiken, USC Beaufort, USC Upstate) and the Research I university (USC Columbia) via Palmetto College Online. Learn more at www.palmettocollege.sc.edu.

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