Albright ADP to Offer Degrees in the Desert

This fall the residents of Mesa, Ariz., will have the opportunity to attend Albright without ever leaving the dry desert air.

Through the Accelerated Degree Program (ADP), Albright will become the first out-of-state institution to open its doors as part of Mesa’s initiative to bring more higher education options to the region.

The College will offer bachelor’s degree programs in organizational behavior/applied psychology, business administration, and information systems to working adults. Amy Lee, Ph.D., co-founder of ADP, will run the Mesa program.

“Following the model we have started here (in Reading), we will have a seamless transfer in Mesa,” said Lee, who has taught psychology at Albright for 23 years. Albright will begin offering information systems and psychology in the fall, followed by business in January, he said. Several other institutions, such as Benedictine University in Illinois and Westminster College in Missouri, will offer complementary programs in Mesa.

“This opportunity is a perfect fit for Albright College and for the city of Mesa,” said President McCormick. “The College has been educating working adults for 15 years and has earned a reputation for rigorous academics and a flexible, adaptable curriculum. Our new degree offerings in Mesa will reach the areas the city is seeking to leverage.”

Albright has also signed an articulation agreement with Maricopa Community Colleges to grant students easier access to the Albright Mesa programs.

Mesa is one of four cities that received grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the National League of Cities to fund innovative proposals to boost college completion rates. Under that funding, Mesa Counts on College, a partnership among the city, Mesa Public Schools and Mesa Community College, seeks to double the number of low-income youth who complete college or a certificate program within the next 10 years.

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Capstone Corner

Cycle of Life, presented by Business 9 Pittsmead: Cycle of Life is a raw and cooked vegetation food café located in Collegeville, Pa. The business is an innovative restaur-ant that uses the freshest natural and locally-grown produce for customers who seek excellent, culturally-diverse vegetation foods, along with exceptional service. Its competitive advantage lies in its ability to provide a wide range of services that are not offered by competitors. Cycle of Life provides its customers with food service, take-out, catering, wholesale and retail pricing, an onsite food and supply store, catering services, classes, and live music, while also functioning as a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) drop-off center. Although competitors offer some of these services, Cycle of Life provides a more complete range of services, so it can better meet its customers’ needs. Director’s Note: This is a proposed business plan created by the cohort, not an actual business.

Research Rounds

Congratulations to Andreas Ivan ‘10, Elizabeth Flatt-Fultz ‘09, and Lindsey Phillips, Ph.D., ADP assistant professor of psychology, Degree Completion Program, on the following published research:


A Look at the Liberal Arts

Albright’s DCP offers an array of general studies courses in the liberal arts. In each issue of Accelerated Degree Program Connection we will highlight one of these courses.

WORLD LITERATURE: LOVE & REVELATION - By reading works and learning to world literature, from Ireland’s James Joyce to Japan’s Yasunari Kawabata, students will develop and practice skills in writing, analyzing content, and understanding how different cultures approach universal themes of love and revelation (epiphany). Such class session explores short fiction and poetry by authors from various corners of the globe, affording students the opportunity to expand their world view and further their critical thinking abilities as they respond creatively to texts. This course satisfies a general studies humanities or foreign language-cultural requirement.

Thoughts from a 2007 ADP Graduate

MEI HUGENBRUCH, M.B.A., CFE ’07

Without a doubt, many of you can identify yourselves with this predicament: we lack credentials and have no chance for promotional consideration. With family commitments, we can always find a valid excuse for not continuing with our education—no time, too tired, it’s been a while since we last picked up a text book, etc. Sound familiar?

Even when I investigated the possibility of further education, my inner dialog was filled with negativity and I was prepared to counter any suggestions the enrollment advisor at Albright College had to offer.

To my surprise, I found myself warming up to the idea that Albright’s DCP could actually work. The hours were right, the pace was right and the faculty and staff were incredibly enthusiastic and helpful. Initially, the very thought of embarking on a 24-month journey was daunting. But the time flew by and before I knew it I was in my cap and gown ready to claim my well-deserved diploma at graduation.

I have to say, I am incredibly proud of the degree and the great educational opportunity it was. Before I attended Albright College I was teaching at a community college in California and had never thought about becoming an auditor. After I graduated from Albright and returned to California I was able to get a job with the Controller’s Office in my county and was able to use my audit and accounting skills every day.

I was lucky to have been provided with excellent guidance through the process of becoming a certified internal auditor. Albright College provided me with the perfect educational package and led to those promotional opportunities for which I had hoped.

Today, my job as a lead auditor with an international company takes me all over the world. The key to my success began on the day I started at Albright College.