



February 5, 2009

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Broward College gets go-ahead to offer new degrees

By MICHAEL SCHMIEMAN | Forum Publishing Group
February 5, 2009

Broward College has taken the first step toward offering four new bachelor's degrees.

The Florida Department of Education has approved Broward College's request to offer bachelor's degrees, including the B.S.N. in Nursing, B.A.S. in Information Technology, B.A.S. in Supervision and Management and B.A.S. in Technology Management.

Dr. Barbara Bryan, provost at the North Campus, said the college had to demonstrate to state officials that there was sufficient demand for the new degrees.

"We had to show them that there were enough students interested in the new degrees to make the programs self-sustaining within three years. We took a conservative approach to it, but we actually think they will be self-sustaining within a year of two," Bryan said.

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Bryan stressed that the degrees will lead to high paying careers.

"This is something that will be good for the state, good for the county, good for the college and good for the students," she said.

In order to be accepted in the new advanced degree programs, the students have to already hold the appropriate basic degrees in their fields, she said.

President J. David Armstrong, Jr. said, "Broward College has an opportunity to expand its role in the community and in higher education, while meeting the work force development needs of our county and district. We also think we can help our students, by allowing them to stay here at the college and complete their degrees with us. In addition, we are expanding

opportunities for people in [Broward County](#) to earn bachelor's degrees."

Broward College's proposals for the baccalaureate programs were in response to the demand for degrees, and also to shortages in the nursing field. In the next five years, [Broward County](#) is expected to need 4,425 employees to fill positions in technology management.

Broward College continues to strengthen its partnerships with four-year universities in Florida, especially with [Florida Atlantic University](#) and [Nova Southeastern University](#), said Armstrong. "We want to ensure that our students can transfer easily and efficiently into the four-year degree of their choice."

The Broward College District Board of Trustees "has been very supportive in the expansion of our role in the community and our staff has worked very hard," said Armstrong. "Our mission is not going to change. We are still an open-door institution and remain committed to maintaining a full range of program needs for our students, including those that prepare educated workers for business and industry."

The approval from the Department of Education to offer these programs is the first step in the process. Next, a request will go to the state legislature for funding, and then the college will seek accreditation from SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools).

The college already offers a baccalaureate degree in exceptional student education. The first group of 64 future teachers started classes this month.

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