Extended Education is newest college

By Mark Nothaft

ASU will have a new college — the College of Extended Education. The Arizona Board of Regents was expected to authorize the new unit at its meeting July 20.

The college, which previously operated as part of the Academic Affairs Office, will serve as an arm extended to the community.

“The college will serve a broad spectrum of Arizonans, further supplying the educational needs of the state,” said Dennis P. Prisk, assistant vice president for extended education.

Added Elmer Gooding, interim provost and vice president for academic affairs: “The College of Extended Education will expand the range of ASU’s academic offerings and enable us to meet the educational needs of a large segment of the population that is not currently being served.

“We recognize the importance of taking our course offerings into the community and we believe the College of Extended Education will be an excellent means to do so.”

The college will centralize and coordinate extended education programs at ASU, making it easier for professionals to obtain the supplemental training they desire. Its main constituents include campus departments, community and civic groups, professional associations, volunteer organizations and jointly sponsored ASU programs.

Prisk compares the college to a brokerage agency. The college will broker ASU’s resources with a variety of needs, including assisting with the economic development initiatives of the state, he said.

“This is by no means a place to take macramé and basket weaving courses. It’s designed to further develop professional skills and knowledge,” Prisk said.

Expanded off-campus credit courses and service also will come out of the new college, in addition to the promotion and support of innovative new curricula.

Now that ASU has made the college an official bridge to the community, Prisk said that he and his colleagues will define the college’s relationship to other ASU colleges.

Like ASU’s 12 other colleges, the Extended Education College encompasses various departments, or divisions, including the new Japan Center, part of the American Language and Culture Program.

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