Responding to the ideas and insights from citizens across Southwest Virginia, Emory & Henry College announces the launch of a Master of Arts in Community and Organizational Leadership. Classes will commence in January, 2010.

As integral part of the mission of Emory & Henry College to educate, serve, and equip persons for effective citizenship, the Master of Arts in Community and Organizational Leadership (MCOL) will provide persons involved in non-profit and for-profit organizations, governmental bodies, public agencies, and other avenues of civic leadership with the skills and tools necessary for proactive leadership focused on building strong communities. The MCOL grows from a definition of leadership as a relational process, requiring rigorous interdisciplinary understanding and an awareness of the critical importance of the differences that exist within and among communities and organizations.

The program is designed for professionals already at work in for-profit, non-profit, faith-based, government agencies and organizations, and as elected representatives, as well as those who may wish to undertake civic work in the future, who desire to improve their skills at civic leadership. Persons who are considering a change of careers or who are retired and would like to continue to improve the skills they bring to their community work would also find the MCOL of interest. This program will provide concepts and methods for effective and sustained community leadership for elected officials, civil servants, and persons engaged in a range of community agencies and organizations either as full-time staff or as volunteers.

Courses in the program will focus on understanding the various characteristics of organizations and community and approaches to leadership appropriate for each, strategic planning, organizational management, working with elected officials and government bodies, managing human resources, and understanding and advocating for public policy. Participants will have the opportunity to select one of two focus areas for study, with appropriate courses in each, either non-profit leadership or healthcare leadership. There will be a substantial practical component to all courses, encouraging students to apply classroom teaching and discussion to situations in their workplace or a community organization with which they are associated.

Faculty who will be teaching these courses all have a wealth of practical experience in a range of community and leadership positions. They will bring to their teaching advanced study, as well as their perspective on real world issues and questions. As with all Emory & Henry courses, these faculty members will ensure a great deal of one-on-one teaching and collaborative work with program participants.

All course offerings for the MCOL will be held at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, located in Abingdon neighboring Virginia Highlands Community College. With its extensive technological resources, central location, and easy accessibility, the Higher Education Center will enhance participants’ learning experience. As students enrolled in Emory & Henry College, MCOL participants will have access to all of the facilities and resources of Emory & Henry, including its extensive library holdings.

All course offerings for the MCOL will be held at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, located in Abingdon neighboring Virginia Highlands.
Tuition costs for the program will be $3,825 per semester. Participants can qualify for financial aid and Virginia residents will also be eligible for the state’s tuition assistance grant (TAG) for graduate studies.

Admissions materials are available through the Emory & Henry College Admissions Office. To receive an application and to learn more about applying, please call or e-mail Bridgett Hart at bhart@ehc.edu, or call 276.944.6136 or 6133. For more information about the program, contact Tal Stanley by e-mail at tastanle@ehc.edu or by calling 276.944.6900.

Open Houses

Emory & Henry College will host two Open Houses to acquaint interested persons with details about the new Master of Arts in Community and Organizational Leadership. The conversations will offer an overview of class offerings, introduce some of the faculty that will be affiliated with the program, outline applications procedures, and offer information about financial aid.

These informational gatherings will be held on the first floor of the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, at exit 14 in Abingdon.

Tuesday, October 27 at 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 7 at 10:00 a.m.

Both sessions will last an hour and light refreshments will be available.

For directions, please visit the Center’s web site at http://www.swcenter.edu/.

If you have questions about the Open Houses, please contact Tal Stanley at tastanle@ehc.edu or (276) 944-6900.

Emory & Henry College is continuing to plan and design programs to serve all the people and places of the region. A committee is moving forward with developing an Institute for Sustainable Communities, which will utilize College resources, leverage outside resources, and work with communities across the region to ensure that all places can fulfill their potential to be safe and good places for all their citizens. In its partnership with the town of Fries, Emory & Henry is working to assist the people of that place with their goals for economic revitalization built on the remarkable natural resources and beauty along the New River. The sliding scale health clinic that Emory & Henry helped the citizens of Meadowview establish as one step toward the sustainable economic development in that place continues to add medical staff, expand its services, and serve an increasing number of persons. In those focus groups, citizens, elected leaders, appointed public officials, and community volunteers also nearly unanimously called for more opportunities for continuing education of community leaders.

The MCOL is founded on two guiding principles that continue to shape the College’s work with and for the people and places of Southwest Virginia. The first principle is that every person has the gifts and talents, the vision and the abilities to make a difference in their community and the lives of their neighbors. The second principle is that every place has the potential to be a safe, healthy, and good place for all of its people. The College is committed to enacting these principles in all that it does in partnerships throughout Southwest Virginia and across the globe. The Master of Arts in Community and Organizational Leadership is but one means of doing that.

Working Together, Responding to Community Ideas

For all of its 170-year history, Emory & Henry College has been about the work of educating and equipping citizen leaders. The Master of Arts in Community and Organizational Leadership continues this commitment, increasing its relevancy for the twenty-first century. The program responds to the ideas and insights offered in a series of twelve focus groups, held in counties between the New River and the Kentucky border in the spring and fall of 2008.

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If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please contact Gloria Surber at gwsurber@ehc.edu.