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ATTN: Editorial Department

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DATE: June 11, 2004

NOTE: Please do not run after June 23, 2004

HEADLINE: MTSU Offers Non-Traditional College Experience: Hours Flexible; Campus Optional

MURFREESBORO, Tenn.—Non-traditional students throughout Middle Tennessee now have a chance to earn a bachelor's or master's degree at a local college without ever stepping foot on campus, unless, of course, the student wants to do so.

"You don't have to come to MTSU to earn an MTSU degree," said Dianna Zeh Rust, director of the Academic Outreach and Distance Learning initiatives offered through MTSU. "And at the same time, being in the region allows you to come to campus if you want to access our services."

Rust said that non-traditional students have all the same rights as anyone else on campus: "Whether the student is taking a course or earning a degree in the evening, online, or at an off-campus facility, he or she can access MTSU's campus resources, use the state-of-the-art library, seek career placement, and walk the line at graduation."

And according to Dr. Rosemary Owens, Dean of the Division of Continuing Studies and Public Service, alternative ways of delivering higher education is impacting thousands of students of all ages and backgrounds.

"Our goal has always been to provide access to non-traditional students," Owens said. "We are meeting the educational needs of many different kinds of students who need alternative ways to reach their career and professional goals. We are grateful for the opportunity to provide higher education access to over 500 students, annually."

And the students agree.

Marge Haines graduated from MTSU in May 2003 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Liberal Studies, all taken through the Internet as part of the school's participation in the Regents Online Degree Program (RODP).

"I had looked into taking classes periodically and had even transferred my college credits to MTSU, but with family and work obligations, the logistics of driving to campus and sitting in a classroom were overwhelming," Haines said. "I knew the (RODP) program would work for me. I logged onto the RODP Website and changed the course of my life."

And according to the staff, the Internet is not the only way that working adults and non-traditional students can find the time to return to college.

In addition to correspondence and telecourses, MTSU offers undergraduate and graduate courses in the evenings for students living in the Middle Tennessee region who cannot access the campus during the day, and the Division offers courses and degree programs in such off-campus Tennessee locations as Lebanon, Lyles, Columbia, Franklin, Lawrenceburg, Shelbyville, Spring Hill, Smyrna, and Tullahoma.

"We're closer than you may think," Rust said. "The July 1 admissions deadline is just around the corner, so don't delay."

For more information, please (615) 898-5332 or visit us online at: www.mtsu.edu/learn

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