



Released November 4, 2010



MSCC Purchases Bus to Provide Transportation for Student Activities

After several years of saving money and searching for just the right product, Mid-South Community College has purchased a passenger bus that will benefit students for at least 15 years.

“The people in our Student Affairs department have been asking for a vehicle like this for several years to give us the capacity to transport our students to cultural and educational enrichment activities,” said Dr. Glen Fenter, MSCC President. “Everyone is excited about the new opportunities that this bus will create for our students.”

The vehicle is 35 feet long and seats 39 people. It is wired to allow students to use their laptop computers for class-related activities and assignments.

“The bus has some of the latest technology available,” Dr. Fenter said. “Mid-South Community College has developed a reputation for doing things at a little different level than some folks expect, and this vehicle is no exception. It is impressive inside and out.”

MSCC’s transport vehicle is also accessible for current and future students and staff with disabilities.

“Buses don’t normally come equipped with Americans with Disabilities Act features, so we searched a long time to find one that did,” Dr. Fenter said. “Although the law does not require us to have an ADA compliant bus, it’s something we were morally convicted was the right thing to do.”

The bus will transport MSCC students to museums, art galleries, dramatic performances, SkillsUSA and BEST Robotics competitions, intercollegiate and intramural sporting events, and other special events in the region.

“MSCC’s purchase of a charter bus couldn’t have come at a better time,” said Dorothy Gautreaux Sisnett, MSCC Vice President for Student Affairs. “This is something we have needed for several



years because enrollment and student involvement have progressively increased on and off campus. This recent purchase will enable us to transport students to various educational, enlightening activities in Arkansas and the Memphis metropolitan area.”

“The new MSCC bus will also allow our athletes to travel comfortably and ‘in style’ to away games in various cities and states. One look at the bus and observers will know that MSCC invests in its students and values its image and reputation.”

The college’s BEST Robotics team used the vehicle on Oct. 30 to go to Jonesboro for the regional competition.

“Not only were we able to take all of our students in one vehicle, we also used it to transport our robot, a laptop computer, tools, and a six-foot booth,” said Donnylle Hampton, MSCC Technical Center Director. “If it were not for the bus, we would have had to take our students and equipment in three vans and a trailer. It’s great to have one vehicle that meets so many needs.”

“This bus will save SkillsUSA and BEST Robotics programs quite a bit of money by not having to rent transportation when we travel out of town as a large group,” added Pete Selden, MSCC Work-Based Learning Counselor who serves as an advisor for the

SkillsUSA program. “In the past we have spent a great deal of money from our budgets to transport students, but by having our own bus, we can use this money in other ways that will benefit our students.”

The bus is not new, but it looks like as if it just rolled off the assembly line. It is a year old and has been driven 60,000 miles.

“In mechanical terms, it’s not even broken in yet,” Dr. Fenter said. “We have been told that a bus like this should be able to go at least 500,000 miles, and some people have told us it might remain mechanically sound for as many as 1.5 million miles. We’re expecting to get at least 15 years of use from it.”