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Follett Bookstore Announces Rent-A-Text Program at MSCC

The Follett Higher Education Group has announced it will begin offering textbook rental services at Mid-South Community College this fall. Rent-A-Text gives students an option that could save them 50 percent or more off the price of new books.

“We are pleased with Follett’s decision to launch Rent-A-Text at Mid-South Community College because we are committed to providing students with affordable textbook options,” said Dr. Barbara Baxter, MSCC Executive Vice President.

“The rising cost of instructional materials creates a financial hardship for many of our students, so we are excited about this new option that will help them spend less on books. The program will help students minimize the cost of their textbooks while allowing them to use the texts as if they owned them.”

Rent-A-Text will be offered through MSCC’s ongoing partnership with Follett, the leading provider of bookstore services and the foremost supplier of used books in North America. The option is based on results of the company’s comprehensive pilot program that saved students nearly \$2 million on their course materials in just one semester at seven schools.

In a survey of 1,400-plus students who participated in the test program, more than 90 percent of students surveyed expressed satisfaction.

“We have been at the forefront of cost-savings programs for more than a century,” said Thomas A. Christopher, President of Follett Higher Education Group. “We know that students have a lot of choices where they buy their textbooks, and we believe that this program will help our bookstore become the most competitive option.”

“Helping to reduce the costs of higher education is part of our mission, and we look forward to working with Mid-South Community College to deliver substantial textbook savings to students.”

Follett's textbook rental program will allow students to choose a preferred form of payment (including financial aid), allow students the freedom to highlight and take notes all within the normal wear and tear associated with coursework, and give students the choice to buy their textbook at the end of the term if they decide to keep it.

Another major advantage of the rental program is that students will never be stuck with a text that has no resale value.

To participate in the Rent-A-Text program, students must present a driver's license or valid identification card and provide collateral in the form of a credit card number. Participants must have an e-mail or cell phone electronic message address so they can be reminded when to return the book. Texts must be returned to the bookstore by the date on the rental receipt, and Follett will also attach a sticker on rental books.

Program participants must be 18 in order to sign a rental agreement or have their parents do it.

Not all course materials will be available for rental. Textbooks will be selected based on a number of criteria, including saturation of a title, breadth of customers using the title, type of book, and expected life span.

Follett's Rent-A-Text is expected to reach more than 400 campuses nationwide for the 2010 academic year. For more information on the program, visit the MSCC Bookstore in the Reynolds Center on the South Campus, call 870-733-6796, or see the website at www.rent-a-text.com.