

## **CSM opens new Coastside satellite campus this fall**

**Local residents to be surveyed on what classes would interest them**

**By Julia Scott, STAFF WRITER  
Inside Bay Area**

**Article Last Updated: 0415/2007 03:02:04 AM PDT**

HALF MOON BAY – For Coastside students, getting a community college education has never been convenient. Classes are either in San Mateo, San Bruno or Redwood City. That will change this fall, when the College of San Mateo opens its first full-fledged satellite campus in Half Moon Bay. The campus, to encompass two classrooms, a computer lab and an administrative office in the Shoreline Station office complex along Highway 1, will eventually be able to accommodate up to 920 students a day, according to Martha Tilmann, dean of technology for the College of San Mateo. Classes could begin as early as August, depending on how quickly the offices can be renovated.

The San Mateo County Community College District approved a lease agreement in late March for the 5,000-square foot space.

Opening a mini-campus on the Coastside has been a goal for decades, said college Chancellor Ron Galatolo, who said the area had been "under-served" since the 1960s as other parts of the county claimed a larger part of the college's resources. "We see ourselves as a community-based organization, and we see the Coastside as an integral part of the community that we serve," Galatolo said. "The very fact that we don't have a presence over there means we have not provided sufficient access to higher learning."

The new facility will be geared toward a wide variety of groups, from high school students getting a head start on college to adult learners looking for some vocational training or simply an interesting class to take, according to Galatolo. The college will also expand the English and computer-literacy classes it currently offers to Spanish-speaking residents at the Moonridge housing complex in town.

Indications are that the mix of classes will be popular, but officials are preparing a mail-in survey to gain a better sense of what sorts of classes would most interest local residents.

Many would-be students have a pronounced need for basic and college-level math, science, English and humanities classes -- all designed to fit within the schedule of someone who also works for a living, said Galatolo.

"For many of those students, coming over the hill may be the difference between going to college or not," he said.

Half Moon Bay Councilwoman Bonnie McClung, former superintendent of the La Honda-Pescadero Unified School District, said she and other Coastside volunteers asked the college to consider situating a campus in Half Moon Bay in 2005 when a different property became available. Discussions turned "serious" from then on, said McClung.

The Community College District has offered English language, citizenship, and computer-literacy classes to the local immigrant populations in Half Moon Bay and Pescadero for nearly a decade, and has always shared her dream of adding broader course offerings.

"I think the administration is really listening to the needs of a special population here. We're a little isolated, and we're not as big as some other places, but they're meeting our needs and I'm gratified they saw fit to do that," said McClung.

Tilman, who is helping oversee the new space and select the programs, is audibly excited about the unique courses Half Moon Bay's geography can afford college students -- from physical education sessions on the beach to marine biology classes that take advantage of all the sea life minutes away.

She even has plans to promote "education vacations" for tourists who would be interested in a watercolor painting or nature- appreciation class while they're in town.

"It's somewhat of an experiment," said Tilman, of the school. "We're not 100 percent sure about everything, but we're exploring it and giving it the best chance we can."

Staff writer Julia Scott can be reached at (650) 348-4340 or [jscott@angnewspapers.com](mailto:jscott@angnewspapers.com).  
c2007 ANG Newspapers. Cannot be used or repurposed without prior written permission.  
Provided by ProQuest Information and Learning Company. All rights Reserved.