

CASNR

Reaching New Highs

Many things can happen within a year. Seasons come and go, college students graduate, and high school students decide on where they want to spend their next four years for college.

For Texas Tech, the University is not only growing in numbers, they are reaching new highs. According to the Texas Tech Center for Campus Life, Tech's campus is more than 1,830 acres, making it the nation's second largest campus. With all this space, it's convenient for an increase in student enrollment. This idea is not farfetched because the university itself increased in numbers, and so has the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR).

Official records indicate that Tech enrollment has increased nearly two percent from fall 2012. CASNR alone has also increased to a new high record of 1,927, which is a 4.16 percent increase from fall 2012.

"We are really excited about our record numbers," said Cindy Akers, the Associate Dean for Academic and Student Programs and a current professor.

"The chancellor five years ago made a push for the university to reach 40,000 students by 2020, so all of the colleges have also been pushing to raise the student enrollment numbers."

Akers said CASNR has always encountered increased enrollment each year, but they are always searching for new, innovative ways to increase student enrollment at the university. Some major ways they recruit students is through FFA, 4-H, and Agri-Techsans, but it doesn't stop there.

"We also look at science fairs and high school camps," Akers said. "We also utilize social media, because that is how students really interact with the college and we need to keep our websites up-to-date with what is going on."

Lori Dudley, Coordinator of Student Development in the Bill Bennett Student Success Center, has been

working at Texas Tech for 11 years and has been with CASNR for six years. She first noticed the growth in student enrollment this summer during student orientation.

"Our orientation sessions were some of the largest I've seen since I have been doing this job," Dudley said. "It is a great feeling to know that all of our recruiting is really working and students are wanting to attend Texas Tech and CASNR."

Dudley also said the rise in student enrollment has helped CASNR nationally.

"The growth in enrollment has brought us a lot of national recognition. Being a tier-one research institution, we see it on the faculty side with the funding they are able to get," Dudley said. "We have also seen an increase in out-of-state student enrollment, which is always great for the college."

The increase in student enrollment has also changed the college's perspective on the ways certain courses are delivered.

"This increase is enhancing our idea to add distance delivery courses within the college," Akers said. "This is a new way to add more students without having the infrastructure on campus."

Akers said she is excited about the boost in enrollment this year and wants all students to know that they are people, not numbers.

"Our students mean a lot to us, and we never want them to feel as if they are just a number. We are always going to give that extra piece and go that extra mile for them," Akers said. **T**

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