

Record Number of Freshmen Enrolled at Peru State College

(KLZA) Peru State College announced Tuesday it has enrolled the largest freshman class in the institution's 146-year history and overall enrollment has increased 5 percent over one year ago.

This year's freshman class enrollment is 266, up 28 percent since 2012. The number of on-campus students has increased 28 percent in the past five years with 1,008 students currently enrolled. Over 12 percent of freshman class members are Board of Trustees Scholars, the most prestigious scholarship offered by the Nebraska State College System for high academic achievement.

Online and graduate enrollments are both up 8 percent and transfer enrollment is up 19 percent.

Out of state enrollment continues to grow with a 2 percent increase over last year, primarily on campus. Since the college's 2009 implementation of its One Rate Any State program, which allows all students to attend Peru State for the same low rate as in-state students, out-of-state enrollment has grown significantly.

With several weeks left to register for online and off-campus classes, overall enrollment is expected to exceed 2,500 when final figures are calculated in mid-October. Current overall enrollment is 1,926. College officials attribute the growth, in part, to a student-centered culture, news of student successes, award-winning advertising initiatives and new technology-supported admissions initiatives.

With the influx of freshman students this fall, the college is nearing capacity in its residence halls.

Peru State President Dan Hanson said, "Any college president would say it's a good problem to have, but it's also one we must address quickly if we continue to grow at this rate. We have already begun looking at contingency plans in the event we reach capacity next year, which is quite possible."

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