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For immediate release

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### **Terra Announces Reorganization of Student Services Areas**

In an effort to serve its students more efficiently, Terra Community College is reorganizing two of its student services areas.

Six positions in the Admissions and Financial Aid offices have been eliminated but 15 new positions are being created to address a growing enrollment.

"We look at it this way; can we do a better job for our students?" said Dr. Jerome Webster, Vice President for Student and Administrative Affairs. "The answer is, 'absolutely,' and so we are making changes that will impact our students in a very positive manner."

Enrollment has increased for four straight terms, applications for fall semester are up by double digits, and students more than ever are relying on financial aid. That combination, coupled with state mandates for more efficiency, is fueling the reorganization.

Summer enrollment, for example, is up 31 percent in headcount and 49 percent in Full Time Equivalency. These are historic numbers for a summer term; what it means is more students taking even more classes.

The new positions, which have yet to be finalized, are a blend of admissions and financial aid. Students will be able to initially get information from one person and not be forced to travel to a variety of offices.

"We have moved Financial Aid to A100 with the Admissions personnel and have begun to reorganize positions in this area to better align the tasks of admitting students, providing in-take advising, and processing financial assistance," Webster said.

In addition, the college has re-aligned positions in student affairs and other areas to more effectively meet student needs, create a campus life, and move forward with efforts that focus on the retention of students, Webster added.

To date, the following positions have been posted: Director of Admissions and Enrollment Services, Coordinator of Student Activities, Assistant Director of Admissions, Student Success Mentor for High School Students, Student Success Mentor for the Academic Service Center, Academic Advisor for Technical Programs, Academic Advisor for Nursing and Allied Health Programs, Academic Advisor for Distance Learning, Records Assistant, and Coordinator of Evening Services and Campus Safety.

Additional positions are anticipated in the near future.

The college also recently made a substantial investment in industry standard Financial Aid software, PowerFaid, and officials are already seeing a greater efficiency as a result.

"Our total financial aid applications for 2009-2010 have already exceeded those from 2008-2009, and PowerFaid has allowed us to process these students in a much more timely and effective manner," said Ed Recker, Director of Financial Aid.

"The majority of our Financial Aid applicants have already received award letters for 2009-2010. PowerFaid has greatly improved our efficiency and turnaround time in processing our students' information."

Webster said the focus of the college remains constant.

"For 40 years, Terra has existed for our students and the communities we serve," he said. "That will continue to be what drives us all."