

December 29, 2001

Dear Editor:

As a Trustee of Parkland College, I have the opportunity to visit with constituents throughout Parkland's district. I have encountered many adults who tell me they regret having never completed their college degree. It is gratifying to be able to tell them, and your readers, about a service provided by Parkland called the Adult Degree Completion Center. It is designed with the sole purpose of giving adults everything they need to finish their degree: personal advising, an individual learning plan, and support services.

It is easy to understand how raising a family, starting a career, and dealing with other responsibilities can interfere with going to college. With the growing popularity of online learning, many busy adults are finally realizing their dream of earning a college degree.

Parkland's Adult Degree Completion Center has agreements with Eastern Illinois University, University of Illinois at Springfield, Franklin University, and other four-year institutions that allows students to earn a bachelor's degree by taking classes at Parkland or online.

Let's face it: with the downturn in the economy, a college degree can make a difference. Plus, there is such a sense of accomplishment to be able to say, "Yes, I have a college degree."

I congratulate Parkland for offering yet another excellent service to the residents of east-central Illinois.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Bennett  
Parkland College Trustee

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