

August 26, 2002

Dear Editor:

I find it both interesting and heartening that in these difficult economic times, more people than ever are turning to their community colleges. With fall classes starting August 26 at Parkland, the college is seeing enrollment increases that may top 10% or higher. This appears to be the case at other community colleges across the state.

Many of these students are enrolling in one or two courses to sharpen their skills for the workplace. Parkland and other community colleges are seeing more students who already have degrees, including master's and doctorates. I have even seen community colleges referred to as the "new graduate schools," since so many college-educated adults are choosing community colleges to continue their learning.

I think it says a lot about our community that so many individuals value education. Our local economy will benefit from the high level of skills that these individuals bring to the workplace.

Sincerely,

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Parkland College Trustee

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