Learning center offers extra programs, educational support

**By Lauren Varga**

The Rider Learning Center (RLC) shows its support for students’ education by offering extra educational support beyond the classroom and helping students improve upon their academic standings.

Rider University offers many programs free of charge to students who seek extra help or support in their studies. One of these programs is the Educational Enhancement Program (EEP).

"EEP provides program- ming, tutoring, courses, seminars and services for the whole Lawrenceville campus and Westminster," said Kendall Friedman, associate director of the RLC, Tutoring Services, and of EEP. "Although we have particular populations that we need to administer to."

Within EEP there are a number of programs offered. One of these areas is the Math Skills Lab (MSL). This program is taught through individual tutoring, structured workshops and computer-assisted instruction.

According to Friedman, MSL is a self-paced math course for liberal arts and education students who did not pass the math portion of the placement test.

"What is great about the MSL is that it is done in your own pace," said junior Natalie Steeter.

Another area EEP focuses on is Introduction to Academic Reading and College Reading.

"Introduction to Academic Reading is for students who took the reading portion of the English placement test and did not pass," said Friedman.

"The second class is College Reading which is a floating elective open to freshmen and other students who want to improve their grades," said Friedman.

The RLC and Tutoring Services are a major part of the EEP program. The RLC provides free individual and small-group tutoring in writing, reading, comprehension and study strategies.

"The (RLC) provides professional and peer tutoring to students," said Friedman. "We have seven professional tutors. Professional tutors are adults with advanced degrees, masters and doctorates."

According to Friedman the professional tutors do not just tutor students—they also hold workshops for students within the classroom for exam preparation and study strategies.

Along with professional tutors the RLC has eight student tutors trained to work with the supplemental instructor receive at least half a grade higher than the students who do not get supplemental instruction."

"What is great about the RLC and tutoring services is that group may request rehearsals when there is an opera coming up," said Dean Perry. "If there is an opera coming up, there is a song that we need to administer to the students," said Friedman. "We have been through groups that have taken the class in the past and have received an A for the semester."

"All SI instructors are recommended by the instructor and have gone through specialized training on group dynamics and learning strategies," said Friedman. "The instructors sit in on the class every week, act as a model student and meet with the professor to form creative learning material like charts and practice tests. The tutors must hold two review sections a week."

"The SIP has grown since its start. There are now seven classes that a student can obtain supplemental instruction for whereas in the past there were only four. EEP also has such programs as Services for Students with Disabilities, Rider Achievement Program (RAP), Turning Point Program: Students on Conditional Academic Stand where a rehearsal or performance space isn’t being used," said Woodhull. "Keep in mind, that each student has to have their own recital, and performance majors have to have two, during their time at WCC. We are maxed out in every sense of the word."

"Westminster is pleased with the results of the negotiations and what the University will gain. Rozanski is pleased with the agreement. We have not only signed a performance agreement, but also a non-profit agreement. The Princeton High School students, but also the many community groups who will use the auditorium in the future."

"If you have any questions or are interested in the program, please contact me at 609-896-6659 or at carstens@rinu.edu. Everything is interconnected," said Woodhull. "If one chain in the link is broken, then positive change won’t happen. But for the first time in four years, since I’ve been here, the links are no longer broken, and positive change is happening."