With the fall semester quickly coming to a close, College of the Canyons officials are encouraging students and community members to explore the multitude of educational and career training opportunities available during the college’s 2013 winter session and spring semester.

In November, COC officials announced that the college would offer a 2013 winter session of approximately 100 online class sections.

Originally, college administrators had planned not to offer winter classes, as a cost saving measure in anticipation of the possible defeat of Prop. 30 and the forecast of statewide “trigger cuts” to the California Community College System.

Locally, those cuts would have equated to a roughly $4.6 million hit to the college’s 2012-13 budget.

Instead, the voters’ passage of Prop. 30 is expected to provide the state’s community colleges approximately $210 million in restored funding during the 2012-13 academic year, which will help provide access to desperately needed classes.

By making the decision to offer a winter session the college will be able to offer classes for approximately 3,500 students.

“At College of the Canyons we are continuously looking for ways to increase access to education for our students and accommodate their educational needs,” said Jasmine Ruys, director of admissions, records and online services at the college. “The ability to offer students a 2013 winter session would not have been possible without the foresight of the Board of Trustees and college administration team to plan for all possible budget scenarios, while keeping the best interests of students in mind.”

The courses being offered during the 2013 winter session will be primarily general education “core” classes that all students need to either graduate, transfer to a four-year school and/or meet course prerequisites associated with their immediate educational plans.

The college’s 2013 winter session begins Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2013, and will conclude Saturday, Feb. 2.

The spring 2013 semester will then begin on Monday, Feb. 4, and run through Friday, May 31, offering students approximately 1,500 class sections to choose from. Of those, roughly 300 class sections will be offered at the Canyon Country campus.

Spring semester registration will begin for new and continuing students during the first week of January.

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