Community Services and Continuing Education Programs

The Brown Estate

The Brown Estate is a conference and meeting facility located off Highway 90 west of Orange. It is a center of educational, cultural and social activity, which serves the citizens of Orange County and the surrounding area. The 68 acres of scenic landscaped grounds, including lakes and greenhouses, feature a graceful mansion built and decorated in the Southern antebellum plantation tradition.

Lamar received the estate in 1976 as a gift from the four sons of the late Edgar W. Brown Jr., an Orange businessman and philanthropist, who served as a charter member of the Lamar University Foundation, Inc. The property, which is open to the public for tours, provides visitors with insights into the accomplishments and lifestyle of one of the region’s leading citizens. The center can be reserved for seminars, meetings, planning retreats, and other public service activities.

Continuing Education and Workforce Development

Lamar State College-Orange offers a wide variety of non-credit educational and recreational courses through its continuing education programs. Course offerings include personal development, computer skill enhancement, and professional development along with free community service learning opportunities. These classes provide opportunities for individuals to continue their education in the academic and technical/occupational areas. In addition, a number of classes are offered for persons interested in pursuing creative activities, cultural endeavors and/or recreational programs.

Non-credit courses are open to interested adults without regard to eligibility for admission to college-credit programs. Lamar State College-Orange will award continuing education units (CEUs) to those who complete continuing education courses administered by the College. In no instance should the award of CEUs be equated with college credit toward a degree.

The Accelerated Certification for Educators (ACE) Program at Lamar State College-Orange has proven to be very successful. As one of the best resources for workforce development, the College provides this teacher training for baccalaureate degree individuals presently in business/industry seeking a career change, college graduates seeking careers as professional educators, and teachers seeking permanent certification. Baccalaureate degree individuals have proven themselves competent as students and professionals. The ACE Program builds upon that solid foundation by providing the necessary training and preparation for teacher certification. Independent school districts in the Southeast Texas region are experiencing the same teacher shortages reported state and nationwide. The ACE Program has supplied school districts across Texas with over 1,000 highly qualified teachers over the last eight years.

The Office of Continuing Education and Workforce Development offers several customized business and industrial training programs. These programs are designed to fit the needs of local employers. Training can take place at a plant or office location, or on the Lamar State College-Orange campus. The division has worked with local business and industry to deliver courses in computer technology, supervisory training, business communication and maintenance technology. Courses may be structured in the form of one-day seminars or multi-faceted, long-term training.