

# Reentry Program

Student Affairs  
Reentry Program  
Main Cafeteria West  
(209) 278-3046  
Director, Arlene L. Bireline

*It is time that we had uncommon schools,  
that we did not leave off our education when  
we begin to be men and women.*

— Thoreau, Walden

**E**ducation is the key to a better life and a more secure future. The Reentry Program assists potential students, 25 years of age and older, who wish to begin or resume a college education. Transitions are difficult for people of all ages — changes in routines, adjustments to new relationships and surroundings.

The Reentry staff has a special interest in fulfilling the changing needs of adult learners. Though many who have been away from the formal learning process are apprehensive, we find that the success rate among returning students is high.

Adults possess certain assets that come only with age and experience. Older students tend to have strong motivations, coupled with a special eagerness to learn. Wider life experiences usually mean more effective coping skills. Staff and peer advisers help the reentry student to make the best use of these advantages.

At the same time, returning individuals are often faced with complicated circumstances which, while making further education desirable, also make it difficult to achieve. Our Reentry staff can help when complex issues need attention. Services offered by the Reentry Program include the following:

**Pre-entry advising** to help you with your initial questions about college. We can advise you regarding eligibility, courses, costs, deadlines and services available.

**Academic advising** to give you the information you need to make informed decisions about your academic career.

**A.V. Lending Library** provides VCR tapes (both VHS and Beta) on a variety of helpful topics for student use.



*Walking around campus is easy now for Bill Ellis and Paulette Murray (left). Here, they stroll the familiar walkway with Reentry counselor Angie Cisneros. After a 26-year absence from the formal learning process, Ellis admits that the first step is the hardest but adds, "Thanks to the university's Reentry Program, it's not so bad."*

**Crisis and personal counseling** to assist with the transition to student life.

**Evening Program** provides support services for reentry students with evening classes.

**Peer support** for reassurance and building a feeling of belonging to the campus community. A student lounge in the Reentry Center provides a place for reentry students to meet friends or relax between classes.

**Weekly support groups**, including a brown-bag lunch meeting, to provide emotional support and an opportunity for students to share concerns with other reentry students.

**Coffee hours** scheduled weekly to provide informal information sessions for reentry students. Excellent speakers from the campus and community address a

variety of interesting topics, such as time management, stress control, overcoming academic anxiety, etc.

**Career exploration** and counseling to assist the older student in making well-informed, appropriate decisions when change is needed.

**Workshops** offered in the evenings and on weekends to further assist reentry students with self-awareness, personal growth, relationship and family enrichment, and academic success.

**Referrals** to campus services such as Career Development and Employment Services, Counseling Center, Child Care Center and Financial Aid.

If you would like more information about the many opportunities for reentry students, we invite you to telephone 278-3046 or visit the Reentry Office.