

## Re-envisioning night school

BY CC TIMES, *Published July 27, 2009*

Faced with surging enrollments, limited capacity and seeking to serve more working adults, a few community colleges are experimenting with night classes - we're talking midnight.

This fall, Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC) in Massachusetts will offer two popular courses - introductory psychology and college writing I - beginning at 11:45 p.m.

"Many people finish work late at night and must be up with their children first thing in the morning," said John Reeves, chair of the college's behavioral sciences department. "This is the only time they can come to school."

The psychology course will run Tuesdays from 11:45 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. The writing course will be held during the same times. For more information about the courses, visit [www.bhcc.mass.edu/midnight-courses](http://www.bhcc.mass.edu/midnight-courses).

Enrollment at BHCC for spring 2009 semester was 9,800, the highest ever for the college, and fall enrollment is expected to be higher still. Increased enrollment has filled available classrooms for day and evening classes, including weekends. On weekdays, classes now begin at 7 a.m. and end at 10 p.m. On Saturday and Sunday, classes begin at 8 a.m. and end at 5 p.m.

"And still we don't have enough space," Reeves said.

**Clackamas Community College** (CCC) in Oregon started its "graveyard welding classes" this spring. In addition to the regular daytime and evening welding courses, the colleges added courses between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m.

The college started the late-night welding classes because its welding shop was at capacity, said CCC welding instructor John Phelps.

"Instead of turning people away, we opened up new sections late at night because we thought it might work for some people, and it has," he said.

Students in the graveyard welding classes include people who are changing careers as well as those trying to increase their skills, Phelps said.

Enrollment is up in the summer term from the spring. As a result, the program is expanding the number of sections and will run classes four nights a week this fall.

Whether CCC will add additional programs to the midnight shift depends on the demand.

“We’re responding to the need. If the need is there, we’ll offer the programs,” said Scott Giltz, the college’s dean of career and technical education.