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**Head of the Class:  
Jefferson College Receives \$219,000 State Grant  
To Expand Adult Education and Literacy/GED Program**

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has awarded Jefferson College a \$219,670 grant to expand adult education and literacy (AEL) services throughout Jefferson County.

Jefferson College's AEL grant application was approved for the total amount requested. Award amounts were based predominantly on the performance of each AEL/GED provider. During a time when state funding has been cut in other areas, this is the largest amount of funding that Jefferson College has ever received to support AEL services.

"Jefferson College has a history of providing quality adult education and literacy services to the community and is a leader in the state with regard to student GED attainment and transitioning students to post-secondary education," said Director of Business and Community Development Bryan Herrick. "The funding that the college has received from the state will allow us to expand services to the community with a focus on workforce development and preparing our citizens to compete in a global economy."

The grant will be used as a new base budget to include a fully funded site at Jefferson College Northwest in High Ridge/Cedar Hill, a full time head resource instructor position, and expanded WorkKeys services targeted at Career Technical Education students to assess and enhance employment readiness and job skills.

As a further example of the quality of Jefferson College's AEL/GED program, Jefferson College was honored by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education with a program excellence award. In addition, two of Jefferson's instructors were offered positions with Missouri's GED online program, out of five full time state openings.

The Jefferson College Adult Education and Literacy program provides area residents with the opportunity to improve academic skills and prepare for the GED test. The classes are available at no cost. Upon successful completion of the GED, graduates are able to enroll in college, qualify for jobs requiring a high school diploma, and/or receive a job promotion that was previously denied due to a lack of education.

For more information about adult education and literacy/GED preparation through Jefferson College, call (636) 797-3000 or 942-3000, extension 437 (TDD 789-5772).