Students arrive at HPU

By Paul B. Johnson  
Aug 24, 2008

HIGH POINT - Maribeth McTernan beamed as she carried a basket of belongings from her family's Corolla to her dormitory room in a residence hall at High Point University Saturday.

The 18-year-old freshman from North Attleboro, Mass., traveled more than 11 hours during two days with her mother, Patti, for her move-in at HPU. She starts class this week as she seeks her degree for a career in nonprofit leadership.

"I liked everything about it," McTernan said about why she picked HPU from a slate of colleges and universities she considered.

McTernan's sister attends a school in Virginia, and Maribeth McTernan visited HPU while she was touring Southern campuses. She and her mother say they like the friendly nature of people they've met in the South.

The mother and daughter from Massachusetts had a lot of company on campus Saturday as students, their relatives and friends brought in belongings for the 2008-09 academic year.

Students and their parents boarded purple-and-white shuttles to ferry them from parking lots to the entrances of residence halls.

A blues band pumped out music from a stage near McEwen Residence Hall as the young men and women carried in boxes and containers.

HPU reports that it will have approximately 3,400 undergraduate and graduate students from more than 50 countries and more than 40 states at its campuses in High Point and Winston-Salem. Students moving into residence halls did so from Friday through today, said Chris Dudley, vice president for administration and community relations.

HPU was expecting 3,000 visitors to come to the city this weekend as students prepare for the new academic year, Dudley told the High Point Convention & Visitors Bureau last week.

The economic impact from the opening of the HPU school year generates more than $1 million in direct, indirect and induced effects upon the regional economy, reports Gerald Fox, HPU associate professor of economics.

HPU held its opening convocation Saturday afternoon at the Millis Athletic/Convocation Center to celebrate the beginning of the academic year.

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