

# DeVry builds at new campus

*Location more convenient, school says*

*By Gina Grate, The Gazette, July 15, 2004*

DeVry University's move to a 4-acre campus on Kelly Johnson Boulevard will put it in a high-growth area next to Interstate 25 and add space for more classrooms and parking.

Construction on the 17,500-square-foot, \$1.4 million building began July 6.

It will open to students in July 2005. DeVry will lease the building from Prime West Development Co. of Denver.

DeVry, which has 1,000 students in Colorado Springs, has 24 campuses across the country, serving 49,000 students.

The school offers business and technology programs granting undergraduate and graduate degrees, with daytime, evening, weekend and online classes.

Now in the former Denver Technical College campus, on Union Boulevard south of Pikes Peak Avenue, DeVry is embedded in a tangle of crowded urban streets, making the driving tedious for students throughout the city.

The new location next to I-25 will be convenient for students from Fort Carson to Monument.

"I think it'll be wonderful for DeVry University to be much more visible than where we are now," said Tonia Queen, associate campus academic dean. "The growth is all out north. I think in the long run, we'll end up being more accessible to the majority of our students."

In addition to location, "The school will be designed more specifically for the learning environment, the curriculum," said Christopher Zsebehazy, a junior in the computer information bachelor's degree program. "From the ground up, they'll be building it for how they'll be teaching the classes," he said.

Most DeVry students spend 75 percent of their time on lab work with computers, said Timothy Campagna, president of DeVry University in Colorado Springs. "This (move) will create labs that are better for the way we are delivering curriculum today."

The Union Boulevard campus has been good for Springs students, Campagna said, "but it doesn't match the DeVry model for delivery of higher-quality education."

The DeVry model includes having the school close to areas of business and high-tech industry growth, such as Garden of the

Gods Road, which is home to Intel Corp., Agilent Technologies, Entegris and LSI Logic, Campagna said.

A 10-year DeVry study ending in 2002 showed a 90 percent job-placement rate. In spite of local high-tech layoffs during the past few years, DeVry's Colorado graduates didn't see a dip in job placement, Campagna said.

Programs at the for-profit university are designed to prepare students for various career options, so if one sector has a downturn, graduates can shift to healthier sectors.

"It's the most applicable education that I've had," said Aaron Weissenfluh, a DeVry graduate and member of the advisory board. "With the instructors tied into an industry, and most of them came from the industry, I was gaining skills that I could use that minute."

Weissenfluh said J.D. Edwards hired him partly because DeVry was on his resume.

He now owns and operates two businesses in Highlands Ranch.

DeVry's advisory board is made up of industry professionals who offer input on curriculum and programs.

DeVry's unusual class schedules set it apart from other schools. Classes are arranged in blocks, from 7 a.m. to noon , 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. , with evening and weekend classes. Online learning is available for students to complete classes from home while traveling or on the job.

The school's 60 to 70 instructors, called "practicing professionals" are full-time professionals who teach at DeVry on the side, Campagna said.

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