

## **Students and Enrollments in Workforce Development and Continuing Education**

*A substantial portion of the Montgomery College mission is to “enrich our community” and to meet “economic and workforce development needs.” The Workforce Development and Continuing Education (WDCE) unit of the College offers several thousand courses a year to individuals, businesses, and organizations in its efforts to enrich our community and meet those economic and workforce development needs.*

*WDCE course offerings encompass a wide range of topics and purposes and are generally shorter in length than the traditional three hours a week for 15 weeks credit-bearing courses. As a result, courses are on a continuous pattern of start and stop, so capturing a snapshot of WDCE enrollment at a point in time is difficult. The following reports offer a brief description of the students and a summary of the volume, type, and location of course offerings for the last three fiscal years (FY 2004 - FY 2006).*

Beginning in FY 2005, WDCE obtained a new grant funded for Adult Basic Education (ABE) , GED, and Adult ESOL programs that had previously been administered by MCPS. As a result, there were significant increases in the number of student enrollments and number of individual course sections offered. The upward growth trend continued in FY 2006, with increases of 12% in the number of students and 15% in the number of course sections.

More than 9,000 students in FY 2006 took more than one course. Counting each student only once, regardless of the number of courses he or she took, there were more than 15,000 unduplicated students in fiscal year 2004 (15,368), more than that number in 2005 (24,138), and 25,030 in 2006.

WDCE students are older (with a median age of 35 for 2006) than the College’s typical credit students (median age 22 for 2006).

During a fiscal year, a large number of students take both traditional credit courses and Workforce Development and Continuing Education courses. The past year, there were 1,508 such students.