

ACPRO test source of state funding

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Staff Reporter

The academic profile test, ACPRO, is a requirement for graduation from Vol State and is taken in the student's last semester. Although the student is scored, there is no failing grade.

The test is administered to assess the effectiveness of the ongoing curriculum at Vol State.

This data is then used to help determine the amount of state performance funding that will be available for future needs.

The academic profile student information booklet is available in student services.

It states that a student's "score on the test is based on the number of questions answered correctly. There is no penalty for guessing, so try to answer every question. The questions are from three academic areas - humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences - measuring college-level reading writing, critical thinking, and mathematics."

Most students are uninformed concerning this test and view it as cumbersome at best.

An interview with former student and current employee Sharon Holland-Maleby revealed that she was not aware of the impact of the test on performance funding.

"I love VSCC and I would have certainly done more had I understood what a positive impact my grade

could have on my school," she commented.

Money that comes from sources other than the bank accounts of students helps to hire and retain superior staff and keep tuitions as low as possible. The fees that students pay are directly proportional to the funding that comes as a result of ACPRO test scores.

Teresa Brown, a 23-year veteran at Vol State and director of testing, said that she is concerned about some of the challenges surrounding the test. She shared that it is her desire to work more closely with the student body to make this testing procedure more user-friendly.

The general education outcome committee is also working on the problem.



The ACPRO test has proved to be a challenge for Teresa Brown, director of testing, as she attempts to convince students to take the test seriously.
PHOTO BY KAYCE DRAPER

In a recent interview with Jane McGuire, vice president of the department of planning and institutional research, she appeared incredibly confident in the continuing

high values of the student body to do all that is required of them.

McGuire said that she has faith that Vol State students would want to do the very best job possible so as to avoid "disappointing themselves."

"VSCC is an institution that truly cares about quality and preparing students to go out and follow their chosen profession," said McGuire.

From the office of public safety:

Effective spring semester 2006, the public safety office has discontinued the practice of issuing a warning ticket prior to issuing an official citation to individuals.

The only exception will be during the first two weeks of each semester, at which time warning tickets may be issued prior to a citation, if deemed appropriate by public safety.

Vehicles parked illegally in handicapped spaces will receive citations immediately for every offense.

Fundraising production runs into controversy year after year

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"I respect the call that Dr. Nichols made and understand the viewpoints of everyone involved. I wish we lived in a society that did not have moral objections to the word 'vagina,' but the fact that Vol State houses a community of thinkers that is willing to debate these issues means that we are a thriving, enlightened college and community," Jowers stated.

Vol State does not have a written policy concerning the use of the marquee.

"The word 'vagina' is a clinical term. It is not derogatory, nor is it slang. There are certain words that I would agree are inappropriate, but this is the official word," says Blomgren.

In the meantime, the student actors involved in the play have taken the matter of publicity into their own hands. A sign advertising the play was

placed in a front yard along Gallatin Road near Blockbuster.

The homeowner agreed to allow the sign to be placed in their yard. The sign was later removed by an unknown individual. Larsen says that the actors intend to replace the sign.

Additionally, posters advertising the "Vagina Monologues" are to be placed around campus in the coming week.

"I think it's unfair that other plays get to use the marquee, but we don't. It makes Vol State look small-minded and backwoods to object to the use of an anatomically correct term. I'm disappointed," Sabrina Swafford remarked. Swafford is an actress in the "Vagina Monologues" who will

be performing a monologue entitled "Hair".

She says that the message of her monologue is that people cannot pick and choose the way their bodies are created and that people need to learn to accept and embrace themselves for who they are.

- Sabrina Swafford

with the production.

Every year the monologues are performed by colleges around the nation. The money raised from the play is donated to the HomeSafe foundation, which is a domestic violence shelter for abused women and children.

"Many people get so involved in

the controversy that they miss the point of the production. I think a lot of it stems from being uninformed. The question I have for people who object is, 'have you seen the show, have you read it, do you know what it's about?'" said Swafford.

"No one is going to force you to see it, but those who think women's issues are important need to have the right to present the performance," Larsen said.

Larsen also states that she has never seen or heard a complaint and says that part of the problem is, "[people] don't know who the opposition is." She also says that she has seen a lot of support for the play in the community.

"Art makes us think about the world in different ways, and sometimes that makes us uncomfortable. People have been talking about things that they wouldn't usually talk about and I think the controversy has been positive for that reason," says Blomgren.