

Macomb Daily, local news, sports and weather serving Macomb County.

March 12, 2012

OU announces new degree programs at Mount Clemens location

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(Macomb Daily staff photo by David Posavetz) Judge Mark Switalski, Jennifer Phililps and Diane Hartmus, O.U. MPA director, announce Oakland University's new Master of Public Administration program starting in the fall.

The momentum continues at Oakland University's Mount Clemens location as officials announced Monday that OU's Anton-Frankel Center will offer a Master of Public Administration program starting in the fall.

The MPA program will provide two types of master's degrees one with an emphasis on court administration, the other with a focus on criminal justice.

The MPA curriculum, designed with the help of the Macomb County Circuit Court, will emerge as the only such master's program of its kind offered by a college in Michigan, and is believed to be unique in the entire Midwest.

"We're ecstatic that Oakland University has decided to offer this program in Macomb County, and more particularly in downtown Mount Clemens," said Macomb Chief Circuit Judge Mark Switalski. "The location in Mount Clemens, right near the courthouse, we think, is perfect for this program."

The MPA court administration program will appeal to those seeking careers working for various judicial agencies: circuit courts, district courts, juvenile courts, family courts, and friends of the court.

"All those things you never see on TV, all the things that makes the courts work -- not the juicy things - that's what court administrators do," said Diane Hartmus, the OU MPA director.

The MPA criminal justice courses will appeal to police chiefs, sheriffs, sheriff's department commanders, probation officers and corrections officials, according to Hartmus.

While MPA degrees have been offered at the OU main campus in Rochester Hills for years, the new program provides the opportunity for students to take all their classes in the evening at the Anton-Frankel Center and achieve a degree in three years.