



# TRANSIT NEWS

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## **BCC Offers Free Fares for Students on Space Coast Area Transit Buses**

To reduce fuel expenses for students, conserve energy and make higher education more accessible, Brevard Community College now offers its students unlimited, free bus rides to and from campus on Space Coast Area Transit buses. BCC is the first and only educational institution in Brevard County to offer free fares for its students. The program is the first of its kind in the college's nearly 50-year history and the first of its kind in Space Coast Area Transit's over 30-year history. Brevard Community College President James A. Drake launched the unprecedented one-year program to help students save money on high-priced fuel by riding the bus. The program provided BCC students free bus rides on Space Coast Area Transit's 14 fixed-routes from now through July 31, 2009.

The college agreed to pay \$15,000 during the 2008/09 fiscal year so that its 25,000 students could ride for free. The Brevard County Board of County Commissioners voted unanimously yesterday to authorize the BCC free-fare program. During the last week in August, BCC students took about 4,000 rides on Space Coast Area Transit which represents about 3.6 % of Space Coast Area Transit's overall ridership. Currently, students pay 60 cents for each bus ride. For students who already ride the bus round trip to and from campus, four times a week during a 16 week term, the free-fare program would save them \$76.80 per term in bus fares. Students who currently drive to and from campus would realize an even greater savings through a reduction in fuel expenses if they swapped their cars for BCC's free-fare bus program. Some students who currently drive from Palm Bay to the BCC Cocoa Campus for classes would save more than \$2,000 a year in gas expense.

The historic student service is available now for all BCC students who show a valid BCC student identification card. Buses stop every hour at the Palm Bay, Melbourne and Titusville campuses and every 30 minutes at the Cocoa campus. A covered waiting shelter is located on each campus. For maps, schedules and information or to use Space Coast Area Transit's interactive trip planner, log on to [RideSCAT.com](http://RideSCAT.com) or call 633-1878.

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