BCCC offers lateral entry teaching program

While statewide teaching shortages have public universities scrambling to graduate more qualified instructors, Beaufort County Community College’s new lateral entry program is helping to meet the demand.

A teaching license from East Carolina University can now be attained without ever setting foot on the Greenville campus, according to Margaret P. Holder, coordinator of lateral entry teachers for ECU. “Over the next decade, North Carolina is going to need 22,500 new teachers,” Holder told the Washington Daily News. “Next year, the state will need 10,000 new teachers. We are not graduating nearly enough. It has become a profession that people are not investing in.”

In light of the state’s teacher shortage, public universities have begun working with community colleges to make entering the teaching profession more appealing, according to Holder, who has been initiating the outreach program in Beaufort, Hyde, Tyrrell, Washington, Martin, Bertie, Carteret, Craven and Dare counties since May 1. Those people who have a bachelor’s degree and would like to become teachers can take a course of study for so-called lateral entry designed by ECU that will allow them to meet state licensure requirements for a teaching certificate.

Holder will design the necessary course of study around an individual’s schedule with classes available on the BCCC campus or via the Internet. “Last year, there were 24 lateral entry teachers in Beaufort County,” she told the Daily News.

“I find out what these 24 teachers need as far as course work and contract through ECU so they can take that course work at BCCC,” Holder also serves as a mentor to the new teachers once they obtain their teaching certificates, providing them with support at the school site.

Anyone interested in the lateral entry program can contact Holder at 940-6386 or may visit her office in room 121A in Building 3 Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information about other opportunities for teachers, interested persons can contact Caroline Hardee at 940-6388 or by email at carolineh@email.beaufortccc.edu.

Beddard raises more than $700 from 24-hour walk

Nearly 24 hours and 50 miles after beginning an historic walk, Wesley Beddard, dean of instruction at Beaufort County Community College, raised just more than $700 for cancer research in the Beaufort County Relay for Life and helped the BCCC Relay-for-Life team exceed its fundraising goal.

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