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Beaufort County Community College

CAMPUS Connections

BCCC receives $200,000 JobsNOW grant

Beaufort County Community College has received a $200,000 JobsNOW grant to provide short-term training for more than 120 jobless workers, BCCC President David McLawhorn announced this week.

Classes will be offered through BCCC’s Division of Continuing Education in construction trades, truck driving and welding with the goal of giving students, with six months or less of study, the skills needed to get a job.

“JobsNOW grant allows BCCC to offer training in several high-cost programs that we could not afford to offer otherwise,” McLawhorn said. “We believe the programs that BCCC chose will offer training opportunities that will quickly teach job seekers new skills that match them with local available jobs.”

Classes in most programs will begin in September.

The JobsNOW program was developed by the state’s community college system and the N.C. Department of Commerce with the goal of identifying well-paying jobs for which workers could receive the needed skills with six months or less of training. The two departments have received about $13.4 million in federal stimulus money in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to implement JobsNOW.

Grants were awarded to the state’s 58 community colleges in amounts ranging from $100,000 to $350,000 based on the number of unemployed workers and the jobless rate in the college’s service area.

$35 million in stimulus money was also allocated to North Carolina’s 24 local Workforce Development Boards for assistance with tuition, transportation and child care for eligible students in the JobsNOW program.

BCCC is working with the Region Q and Region R Workforce Development boards to implement this portion of the program.

Additional partners are Community Developers of Beaufort-Hyde, Inc., which will provide the training site and supplies for some classes and the North Carolina Bio-Network which provided curriculum guidance and technical support.

BCCC chose the four courses after studying the need for workers by local employers and the ability of the college to provide instruction for those workers, according to Chet Jarman, dean of BCCC’s Division of Continuing Education, who will oversee the program.

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