BCCC receives $2.2 million grant

Students at Beaufort County Community College, including many who are dislocated workers, will benefit from a $2.2 million jobs grant that will pay for technology upgrades and new equipment for industry-related programs at the college, BCCC President David McLawhorn announced this week.

"BCCC is very excited about the chance to improve the campus learning environment, particularly for those students who are seeking new careers," McLawhorn said. "There are many job opportunities in eastern North Carolina for those with the appropriate skills and this grant will help our students learn the skills they need for those jobs."

The funds will help BCCC build programs that meet the needs of local industries and improve Internet and technology-based learning, McLawhorn said.

The grant includes the following: $771,319 to improve technology at BCCC, including improvements in the campus wireless network; $564,192 to create "intelligent classrooms" linked to online teacher resources across the campus; $370,000 for a robotic welder and other equipment for the college's welding programs; $76,000 in equipment for BCCC's electrical and electronic engineering technology programs, and $65,708 for an emergent technology laboratory that will give students exposure to the latest in work-related technology as it is developed, McLawhorn said.

The goal of the technological improvements at BCCC is "to enable a student who is training for a new career - and not familiar with today's technology - to graduate with the skills to work in a new economy in jobs that require a knowledge of that technology," he said.

The BCCC grant is one of nearly $19 million in grants awarded to 10 community colleges across North Carolina by the state's Workforce Development Trust Fund earlier this year.