

CCC&TI to Offer JobsNOW Program

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute has recently announced that it will participate in Governor Bev Perdue's JobsNOW initiative and has received funding to expand its existing Nurse Aide I program and develop programs to train the workforce for the emerging green economy in construction trades.

Governor Perdue's JobsNOW program is a workforce development initiative designed to benefit North Carolinians who have lost their jobs due to recent layoffs and plant closures or other job seekers. The initiative creates community college programs in as many as 12 careers, each requiring six months or less to complete. The collaboration between the NC Community College System and the NC Department of Commerce focuses on job creation and economic development. About \$13.4 million in federal stimulus funds has been allocated to the program which will be available this fall.

Locally, CCC&TI will focus on sustainable programs with high job placement rates to meet local demand for skilled workers. The Nurse Aide I program will be expanded to help meet the shortage for qualified nurse aides in the region. In addition, CCC&TI will offer four "Green Associate" programs in plumbing, weatherization, HVAC and carpentry to train students for the increasing number of available "green collar jobs" in the construction trades industry.

In addition to courses geared toward job specific skills, students will also receive training in career counseling, job shadowing and other key employability skills through the Caldwell County JobLink Career Center. Students will earn a Career Readiness Certificate, a nationally recognized credential that shows employers that students have the necessary skills to begin work and successfully participate in job training programs. They also will complete an Employment Connections course that teaches students job seeking and job keeping skills.

Administrators hope that these components of the program will give graduates an edge once they've completed the program and begin their job search. "We want to show employers the value of this type of training. Through the JobsNOW training initiative, students will be exposed to training in both interpersonal and technical skills necessary to meet the new job requirements of the 21st Century," said Elaine Lockhart, Vice President of Adult, Corporate and Continuing Education at CCC&TI.

Those interested in the JobsNOW program should contact the Caldwell County JobLink Career Center at CCC&TI at 828.759.4680. Classes will begin August. More information is available at www.jobsnow.nc.gov/. For more information on registration and fees, contact Dana Glenn at dglenn@cccti.edu or call 759-4675. Financial assistance is available for those who are eligible.