



### **BCCC receives \$200,000 JobsNOW grant to train jobless workers**

Beaufort County Community College has received a \$200,000 JobsNOW grant to provide short-term training for more than 120 jobless workers. Classes in most programs will begin in August 2009. Times, locations, and registration fees for these classes will be announced as they are scheduled.

Classes will be offered through BCCC's Division of Continuing Education in bio-processing, construction trades, truck driving, and welding. The goal of this program is to provide students with up to six months of training and prepare them to get a new job.

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 from 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 registration fees, 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 BioNetwork 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.

The bulk of BCCC's grant funding — \$187,963 — will be used to pay salaries of 13 part-time employees to teach the classes and to purchase instructional supplies and materials. The remainder of the funds will be used to pay for registration, transportation, informational materials, and printing.

The JobsNOW courses offered by BCCC will consist of occupational-specific training along with required training in workplace skills and completion of career readiness certification.

Those completing one of the four JobsNOW courses will be qualified for jobs that, statewide, pay wages ranging from \$13 to \$24 per hour, according to Department of Commerce statistics.

All students completing a JobsNOW program, depending on the assessment criteria they meet, will earn at least the bronze level of the Career Readiness Certificate (CRC), an assessment-based credential that gives employers and career seekers a uniform measure of key workplace skills.

Participants completing the truck driving program as well as the skills and road test will receive their Commercial Driver's License certification.

Contacts for the various JobsNOW programs are as follows:

Betsey Lee Hodges (940-6209) – welding, HRD, CRC

Clay Carter (940-6357) – biotechnology

David Crosby (940-6262) – truck driving and construction trades.

To learn more about eligibility for funds to cover tuition, transportation, and child care - contact Beaufort County Job Link at 252-946-8043.

For information about registering for JobsNOW classes please contact BCCC's Division of Continuing Education at 252-940-6375, or on the Internet at [www.beaufortccc.edu](http://www.beaufortccc.edu).

***This initiative is made possible through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the Department of Commerce, the Division of Workforce Development, and the local Workforce Development Board.***