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"JobsNOW" offers training for unemployed workers

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SALISBURY, NC (WBTV) - New job training is on the way to Rowan Cabarrus Community College in Salisbury and Concord beginning in September.

It's a new program paid for by federal stimulus money that helps unemployed workers get intense, short term training for careers in new fields.

It's called the "JobsNOW" initiative. RCCC is receiving \$350,000 in federal money to develop JobsNOW training programs and hire instructors.

Training is offered in a variety of fields, including air conditioning and heating, biotechnology, brick masonry, pharmacy technician, and welding.

RCCC lists those as "in demand" jobs.

WBTV found that in some cases, such as the pharmacy technician, there is a need for skilled workers.

Melissa Morgan is a pharmacist technician at Moose Pharmacy. She told WBTV that she found work fairly easily after completing training.

On the other hand, Bill Leonard owns and operates Owen Leonard Heating and Air Conditioning in Salisbury. He says the economy has been tough on his business and the he would be hard pressed to hire anyone right now.

"Anyone right now would have a hard time finding work in this area," said Leonard. "Most of the companies I know of are having trouble keeping crews busy right now."

Leonard agrees that the new training at RCCC would still be a good thing for anyone looking for a new career. He says that would at least give students marketable skills and a head start when the economy does turn around.

Anyone who is interested in the program should call the R3 Center at 704-216-7201. The R3 Center is at 164 Dale Earnhardt Boulevard in Kannapolis.

Any person interested in enrolling in the program must attend a JobsNOW workshop. It's free and is conducted by the R3 Center.

Workshops will be offered in Cabarrus and Rowan Counties.

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Melissa Morgan is a pharmacist technician at Moose Pharmacy. She told WBTV that she found work fairly easily after completing the "JobsNOW" training.

(The following information is from Rowan-Cabarrus Community College.)

SALISBURY, N.C. - Rowan-Cabarrus Community College will begin offering "JobsNOW" certificate programs in a number of career fields in September. As part of the statewide "JobsNOW 12-in-6" initiative, RCCC's programs will provide unemployed adults the opportunity to be trained in a new career in no more than six months.

JobsNOW is an initiative requested by the Gov. Beverly Perdue, developed by North Carolina community colleges and funded by federal stimulus dollars through the Division of Workforce Development in the N.C. Department of Commerce. The objective of JobsNOW is to quickly train workers to re-enter the job market in fields that are in demand locally and across the state.

In addition to receiving the training needed to start a new career, those completing a JobsNOW program will receive Career Readiness Certification (CRC). The CRC is a national program that helps job applicants show proof of their basic skills to employers. The certificate is a portable credential, allowing job searchers to use it anywhere in the United States to demonstrate their competence in key foundational skills.

RCCC is receiving \$350,000 in federal money to develop JobsNOW training programs and hire instructors to teach the courses. Normal North Carolina community college tuition rates apply. However, some JobsNOW education and training funds are available for unemployed persons through local Workforce Development Boards.

RCCC will offer 13 JobsNOW certificate programs. These programs are:

- Administrative Professional - classes begin in September;
- Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration - classes begin in October;
- Basic Supervision - classes begin in October;
- Biotechnology - classes begin in September;
- Brick Masonry - classes begin in September;
- Customer Service - classes begin in October;
- Electronics Engineering - classes begin in October and November;
- Light Construction/ Carpentry - classes start in September;
- Nurse Aide - classes begin in September;
- Pharmacy Technician - classes start in September;
- Small Business Office Management - classes start in September;
- Welding Technology - classes begin in October; and
- Wiring and National Electric Code (NEC) - classes begin in October.

Any person who wants to enroll in a JobsNOW program at RCCC must attend a JobsNOW workshop, conducted free-of-charge by the college's R³ Center. The center will offer numerous workshops in Cabarrus and Rowan counties. The workshop schedule includes:

- Aug. 4 at 9 a.m. at the R³ Center in Kannapolis, and 6 p.m., at RCCC's North Campus in Salisbury;
- Aug. 11 at 9 a.m. at the R³ Center, and 2 p.m. at RCCC North Campus;
- Aug. 18 at 9 a.m. at RCCC North Campus, and 6 p.m. at the R³ Center;
- Aug. 25 at 2 p.m. at RCCC North Campus; and
- Aug. 29 at 9 a.m. at the R³ Center.

For more information about RCCC's JobsNOW programs and to register for a JobsNOW workshop, call the R3 Center at 704-216-7201. The R³ Center is located at 164 Dale Earnhardt Blvd., in Kannapolis. See also information on the RCCC website at www.rowancabarrus.edu/jobsNOW/.

"RCCC is proud to offer JobsNOW programs," said Ann Morris, RCCC JobsNOW project director and dean of corporate education. "These time-condensed and highly intensive certificate programs will give local individuals a great opportunity to learn new skills and move into a career field in which jobs are currently available.

"Anyone who has an interest should contact RCCC's R³ Center as soon as possible, and attend a JobsNOW workshop," Morris added.

About Rowan-Cabarrus Community College

Opening its doors in 1963, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College (RCCC) is one of 58 colleges in the state-supported North Carolina Community College System. RCCC is a comprehensive, community-focused institution of higher learning, serving the residents of Rowan and Cabarrus counties at multiple campus locations and through on-line programs.

RCCC offers fully-accredited associate degree programs in more than 40 areas of study, including arts and sciences, business, information technology, health and public services, engineering technologies, and biotechnology. RCCC also offers accredited diploma and certificate programs focused on career training, continuing education and basic skills education. RCCC provides a strong foundation and transferable credits for students advancing to four-year colleges and universities and helps adults get the additional training they need to start or change careers.

RCCC provides more than 2,000 course offerings, serving a yearly overall enrollment of approximately 20,000 students. In addition, RCCC provides the education and job-training programs needed to meet many of the workforce demands of the North Carolina Research Campus being developed in Kannapolis. For complete details, see the RCCC website at www.rowancabarrus.edu.



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