



NEWS

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GCC HEALTH-CARE GRANT PROVIDES CAREER PATHWAY

Deptford Twp. –A \$1.2 million Department of Labor & Workforce Development Training grant recently awarded to Gloucester County College will provide a much needed shot in the arm for the southern New Jersey health-care industry.

To help meet the shortage of certified nursing assistants and central sterilization processing technicians, GCC has developed a Continuing Education Allied Health program to complement the College’s academic health science transfer program. The Career and Technical Education (CTE) grant, which runs from September 2009 until August 2013, will provide statewide professional development and curriculum to assist secondary educators, administrators and college faculty in promoting the programs. Identified as in-demand occupations by the U.S. and New Jersey Departments of Labor, projections indicate that in Gloucester County the need for home health-care assistants will increase by 53 percent and certified-nursing assistants by 28 percent until 2014. Currently, there are 68 students enrolled in the College’s CTE program.

“By educating students in these specific health-care areas through the Career and Technical Education grant, Gloucester County College will be answering a community need as well as providing excellent employment opportunities,” said Freeholder Director Stephen M. Sweeney.

To better inform high-school students about these skilled, high-wage occupations, GCC has teamed up with the Gloucester County Institute of Technology (GCIT). As a part of the CTE grant, GCIT will assume responsibility for promoting career opportunities in the health-care industry and encouraging students to become actively involved within the medical community. GCIT will support the program in accordance with Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) guidelines, a national student

organization endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education and the Health Science Technology Education Division.

Liaison to the County's Department of Education and Department of Economic Development Freeholder Joseph A. Brigandi Jr. said, "Gloucester County College and GCIT have developed a strong partnership establishing a successful Continuing Education program which will train students to work as certified nursing assistants and as technicians in the central sterilization department for hospitals and surgical centers. These capable students will provide a much needed resource to the community."

"Thanks to the Career and Technical Education grant, Gloucester County College students will learn about essential health-care professions and prepare for successful entry into a career or postsecondary studies," said College President Russell A. Davis. "This grant also allows educators to engage students while still in high school and encourage them to be productive members of the health-care community."

For more information about the CTE program, call (856) 468-5000, Ext. 2273 or e-mail rdavidson@gccnj.edu.

GCC's 250-acre campus is located on Tanyard Road in Deptford, just off Exit 56 of Route 55.