



NC Community Colleges
Hope • Opportunity • Jobs

Dr. R. Scott Ralls, President

PRESS RELEASE

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Customized Training Responds to N.C.'s Economic Development Needs *Training Under Way for More Than 11,000 Jobs*

RALEIGH –Prestage Farms has turned to Sampson Community College several times to train workers in its pork and poultry production facilities. The most recent collaboration began in summer 2009, when Sampson Community College (SCC) customized a program of study that included electrical safety and machine guarding certification, and leadership training, resulting in 88 hours of training for 120 employees.

“Prestage Farms is extremely fortunate to employ the majority of its workforce in southeastern North Carolina, giving us access to the customized training offered by Sampson Community College,” says Bill Prestage, President and Founder of Prestage Farms, Inc. “It is evident that the administration and staff at SCC places an emphasis on supplying the customized training necessary to support the businesses in their community.”

For more than 50 years, North Carolina’s community colleges have supported business and industry through customized training, with North Carolina being the first in the nation to deliver company-specific instruction as a component of the state’s economic development efforts. NC Community Colleges’ Customized Training Program continues to support and grow North Carolina’s businesses by educating and training the workforce needed in today’s globally competitive economy.

From July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, NC Community Colleges managed 183 customized training projects involving job growth, productivity enhancement and/or investments in technology. Seventy-eight of these projects focused on job growth, with an anticipated 11,567 new jobs for North Carolina citizens.

“The Customized Training Program was an incentive for businesses to locate and remain in our state before there were incentives,” said Dr. Scott Ralls, NC Community College System President. “Business and industry know that when they locate in North Carolina, there will be a community college nearby to provide a skilled workforce and support a wide range of training needs over time.”

The Customized Training Program also offers clients an opportunity to evaluate the services provided through a continuous improvement evaluation. Of the total Customized Training Program projects completed from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, 97 percent of the clients rated the services received as excellent or very good in terms of the overall impact the training had on the companies’ operations. Ninety-two percent of clients rated the extent to which the program met the companies’ standards as excellent or very good. Ninety-two percent of clients rated the effectiveness of the program in preparing the companies’ employees for productivity as excellent or very good.

Business and industry eligible for support through the Customized Training Program include aerospace and aviation, advanced manufacturing, life sciences, business services, logistics warehousing and information technology. In order to receive assistance, eligible business and industry must demonstrate two or more of the following criteria:

- The business is making an appreciable capital investment.
- The business is deploying new technology.
- The business is creating jobs, expanding an existing workforce, or enhancing productivity and profitability of the operations within the state.
- The skills of the workers will be enhanced by the assistance.

For more information on the state’s Customized Training Program, contact the customized training director at your local community college or call Maureen Little, Associate Vice President for Customized Training, at (919) 807-7150.

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