



NC Community Colleges  
Hope • Opportunity • Jobs

Dr. R. Scott Ralls, President

PRESS RELEASE

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**Duke Energy Grant Program Hits \$10 Million Mark**

RALEIGH – A grant program that helps train local workers hit some key milestones this summer. The Duke Energy North Carolina Community and Technical College Grant program has now awarded \$10 million to support 50 separate training initiatives at North Carolina’s community colleges.

The grant program was created in 2004 as a way to share the profits from the utility’s off-system power sales with communities in Duke Energy’s North Carolina service area. Its objective is to fund community college programs that help local employers develop and grow their workforce and remain competitive in North Carolina. In some cases trained workers move into newly created jobs, in other cases the training improves workers’ skills, productivity and wages. According to conservative estimates, more than 5,000 workers have either completed, or are enrolled in, training offered through Duke Energy funded programs at 21 community colleges. More than 900 new jobs have been created as a result of a better trained workforce.

“The Duke Energy grant program has played a vital role in the education and training of North Carolina’s workforce,” said NC Community College System President, Dr. Scott Ralls. “These funds have assisted in equipping labs with state-of-the-art technology, and providing real-world experience for students; enabling them to get a job in high-demand employment sectors such as aviation, biotechnology, life sciences and advanced manufacturing.”

“Duke Energy is committed to helping our customers and communities succeed,” said Brett Carter, President of Duke Energy in North Carolina. “Innovative partnerships like this, between the North Carolina Community College System, major employers, and our company demonstrate the real and tangible work that is taking place to reenergize the economies in our region. Together, we can help ensure that North Carolina remains competitive.”

Grants have been received by Alamance Community College, Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, Blue Ridge Community College, Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute, Catawba Valley Community College, Central Piedmont Community College, Cleveland Community College, Davidson County Community College, Durham Technical Community College, Forsyth Technical Community College, Gaston College, Guilford Technical Community College, Isothermal Community

College, McDowell Technical Community College, Mitchell Community College, Randolph Community College, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, South Piedmont Community College, Tri-County Community College, Vance-Granville Community College, Western Piedmont Community College and Wilkes Community College.

The grant program has \$4 million remaining to award. The Foundation For The Carolinas assists Duke Energy in administering the program.

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