



NC Community Colleges
Hope • Opportunity • Jobs

Dr. R. Scott Ralls, President

PRESS RELEASE

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More than 6,500 Workers Benefit from Duke Energy Grant Program

RALEIGH – Since 2004, 24 North Carolina community colleges have received nearly \$14 million in grant money from a Duke Energy program that supports training in manufacturing and related industries. The final five grants were awarded in August, and are funding community college programs this fall and during the upcoming spring semester.

The Duke Energy Community and Technical College grant program was created as a way to share profits from off-system power sales with communities in the utility's North Carolina service area. By conservative estimates, more than 6,500 workers have completed, or are enrolled in programs that received Duke Energy funding. Because many of the grants paid for equipment and curriculum development, thousands of additional workers will benefit from training in the coming years.

"These funds have assisted colleges in enhancing key technical programs and initiatives, as well as purchasing necessary equipment that otherwise might not have been possible in our current economic environment," said Dr. Scott Ralls, NC Community College System President.

"Through this grant program, colleges have been able to provide hands on training in job sectors that are in need of skilled workers."

"This collaboration with the North Carolina Community College System allowed us to identify training needs across our service area and provide the funds to create much needed programs in a number of areas including advanced manufacturing, biotechnology, welding and green technology," said Brett Carter, President of Duke Energy North Carolina.

In addition to grants made to individual community colleges, the program is also funding three system-wide initiatives including an engineering technology curriculum improvement project; an initiative to expand opportunities to earn job ready certifications; and the Career Launch

Pad, a mobile laboratory that promotes jobs in biotechnology, healthcare, aerospace and other growth industries in North Carolina.

Individual grants have been awarded to 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, Stanly Community College, Surry Community College, Tri-County Community College, Vance-Granville Community College, Western Piedmont Community College and Wilkes Community College.

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