

BLUEPRINT

THE APPLIED TECHNOLOGY, ADVANCED MANUFACTURING AND WORKFORCE NEWSLETTER
FOR VANCE-GRANVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SPRING/SUMMER 2020

What's
NEXT

ALL SYSTEMS GO!

VGCC responds to the changing times



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Interested in Agriculture?

The NC REAL Agricultural Entrepreneurship Program has been successful for the college and its students. We have heard the requests from the community for additional educational AG opportunities. Vance-Granville Community College is pleased to announce its new Agri-Tech program set to start this fall. The offering will start in October as a hybrid format (both in class and online components). The Sustainable Agri-Tech program will grow one's knowledge in the agricultural field and prepare students for occupations in a wide variety of job in agriculture (both production and value-added). Students will come away with a range of skills and knowledge.

Taught by Kelly Dixon, the program will provide students with a clear perspective on the principles of agriculture in our local and global communities. Students will be introduced to economic, environmental and social impacts of agriculture. Sustainable and organic methods, plant, soil and animal science, field management, equipment maintenance and basic computer skills

and marketing techniques will be explored in this program.

The program will prepare students for the exciting and limitless career possibilities in the expanding field of agriculture. The 96-hour program will be offered through Occupational Extension. Contact Occupational Extension

Director Kyle Burwell at 252-738-3276 or burwellk@vgcc.edu or Tanya Weary, Dean of South Campus at 252-738-3521 or wearyt@vgcc.edu for information on starting your agricultural career.



Stork Enterprises! Working to solving the workforce shortage?

“Stork Enterprises is struggling to develop an employee delivery system to rival that of their baby division. The cargo weight is proving difficult for the carrier.



The weight may prove too difficult for Stork to carry.” This heading and opening sentence were a lighthearted introduction to efforts undertaken by VGCC to boost the workforce pipeline. Written prior to March, when things were different, events now dictate that we take stock of where we are. Economic and every-day life disruptions have occurred, the effects are still revealing themselves across the board, including operations at VGCC.

As for VGCC, several truths remain. *First*, filling the pipeline remains our focus. *Second*, unlike Stork Enterprises, we provide training designed to deliver job capable employees across a wide spectrum of employment needs. *Third*, we need the support of business and industry to accomplish #1 and #2. *Fourth*, as we adjust to changing times, business, and industry, although battered, still have workforce needs because underpinnings of our economy remain intact. Technology and the complexities of global business will not end.

The Business and Industry Connect Summit generated several areas of focus. We heard the requests to bring back Industrial Maintenance. We have responded! A new offering originally scheduled to debut in the summer will take flight in the fall (see article). We also hear the comments surrounding the lack of essential skills of today's workforce i.e.

self-assessment, self-awareness, communication skills, problem solving, and work ethic. We offer several options designed to provide essential skills development. Working Smart is one such option. The course is short duration (24hrs) and covers the areas of deficiency noted above. We would love the opportunity to partner and train current staff or recent hires. The training can be standalone or for apprentices embedded into the related instruction plan. Businesses can promote the importance of essential skills development by placing a premium upon new hire applications of those who have completed training.

The Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Government's Focus 20/20 event, held in February, highlighted local support for regional efforts to energize economic development. Our four-county service area has many resources and opportunities for engagement. As a central stakeholder in the workforce arena, VGCC can drive economic prosperity via education, training, retraining and collaboration. Our message, anyone looking to get top quality education or continue career training should consider VGCC. The economics of career training have never been more favorable. As we move forward, we need seats filled to sustain and grow program options. We will continue efforts to engage stakeholders for support, direction and collaboration. If you know of someone who can benefit from the options available at VGCC, direct them to us. We look forward to working with all who desire to see a healthy economic climate, capable of supporting and attracting opportunities for sustainable wages and careers.

Ken Wilson



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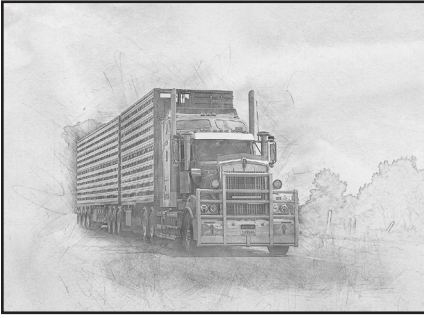
"You will never get any more out of life than you expect."

Bruce Lee



Keep on Trucking

VGCC Students succeed in inaugural CDL course.



Starting a new program always takes longer than expected. Gathering employment data, locating equipment, finding space, advertising, and getting the required signatures just takes time. College staff

always hope the effort pays off with a full program and new skills and opportunities for students. Following this path, the new Commercial Driver Training (CDL) program at Vance-Granville Community College began in February. In March, we suspended the course because of COVID-19. The class resumed in May before concluding this month. “Providing these men and women the training necessary to start a new and rewarding career gives the college GREAT joy and pride! Their ability to persevere, amid a pandemic, and their commitment to successfully completing all program requirements are clear indications that the best, for them, is yet to come.” says Dawn Tucker Dean of Basic Skills and Continuing Education.

According to Business Insider magazine, in 2017, trucks moved 10.8 billion tons of freight or over 70% of all goods transported around the United States. Most grocery stores would run out of food in three days if long-haul truckers stopped driving. Many experts think the trucking industry needs to hire 900,000 more drivers.

Jeff Bullock of Henderson is just one of many examples of the dedicated students in this class. Bullock, who works as a third shift engineer, earned a 4.0 grade point average, and had perfect attendance. “Our highly experienced instructors provided excellent training and information inside and outside the classroom,” said Bullock. “Instructors stressed the importance of safely operating tractor trailers and paying attention to detail during the training. We had access to recruiters from many trucking companies giving us potential job options and insight into the trucking industry.” Jim Womack, lead instructor for the Truck Driver Training program, said of Bullock, “I’m very proud of Jeff. He was an outstanding student that was never absent and never late for class.”

Student Michael Haskins of Oxford is another

positive example from the class, who earned a 4.0 grade point average and had perfect attendance. Instructor Womack noted, “Michael is a great guy and was an enormous help to the entire class. He was always the first student to help other students.” Haskins’ philosophy was simple: “No man left behind.” Because of the challenges caused by COVID-19, Haskins was “willing and determined to do whatever he could to make sure every student was successful by passing the class and getting their CDL-A license.” He described the class as a “career-changing and exciting experience.” Student Kaylin Riley of Creedmoor faced challenges that he had to overcome. Womack said he noticed “Kaylin buckling down and getting serious about improving his driving skills and techniques—which paid off because he successfully completed the course and will get his CDL-A Driver License.”

The program includes a combination of classroom instruction, range driving and road driving. With the end of training, students have successfully completed their DOT exams, making them eligible for their “Class A” Commercial Driver’s Licenses (CDL-A) and fully

employable as truck drivers. VGCC will offer the next nine-week class starting in August, with a mandatory orientation on July 29. The program is a collaboration with Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute and certified by the Professional Truck Driver Institute (PTDI). PTDI is essential to meeting the needs of many companies in need of drivers to move goods across the country.

To enroll in the program, students must be at least 18 years old, have a valid North Carolina driver’s license, be able to read and speak English well enough to take instructions from highway signs, converse with officials, and to complete the required reports. For more information on the Truck Driver Training Program, please visit www.vgcc.edu/cdl/ or contact Kyle Burwell, Director of Occupational Extension, at 252-738-3276 or burwellk@vgcc.edu



Students of the VGCC Inaugural CDL class

Small Engine Mechanic Program *revs up at VGCC*

In spite of growing demand for electric home and garden machines, the use of small engines in home, farm and industrial applications continues to grow. Beginning in Fall 2020 Vance-Granville will provide a new program for small engine mechanic training at the South Campus in Creedmoor. Classes will include:

- a 25-hour basics of combustion and engine operation course.
- common troubleshooting tips for home, garden and farm engine maintenance

The classes are intended for professional trades-

people and hobbyists. Longer courses are designed for professional repair, engine rebuilding and the introduction of multi-cylinder engines. All programs are based around Briggs & Stratton singles and v-twins, but the lessons apply to all small engines.



Vance-Granville and Total Flight Solutions Team Up in Aviation Training

Disease awareness and the expansion of home delivery services are changing the behaviors of many consumers who now prefer unmanned home product delivery. Driven by these cultural changes, new Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) operations are gaining FAA approval, like Flytrex in Holly Springs (August 2019, <https://uavcoach.com/flytrex-north-carolina/>).



FAA Approves Flytrex Drone Food Delivery Route in Holly Springs, N.C. - UAV Coach

FAA Approves Flytrex Drone Food Delivery Route Passing Over Major Highway in Holly Springs, N.C. BY Zacc Dukowitz 21 August 2019. Israeli-based drone delivery company Flytrex will begin making food deliveries in Holly Springs, North Carolina next month.

uavcoach.com

Commercial UAV use is growing, UAV operator jobs are coming to the Triangle area. VGCC and Total Flight Solutions at Triangle North Airport are teaming up to offer several new classes to train commercial drone pilots. Beginning this Fall we are offering a 25-hour class at Vance-Granville. The class is designed to help trainees pass the commercial pilot exam (FAA Part 107). Our hands-on Pilot class will offer hours of safe and supervised flight time. The third-generation UAVs used in Vance-Granville classes use GPS and sophisticated programs to essentially park themselves mid-air when the operator takes their hands off of the controls making them easier to pilot than toy or acrobatic drones. The Vance-Granville drones also use geo-fencing to limit the flight area until a new pilot has mastered the controls.

Vance-Granville and Total Flight Solutions are also offering courses to train new commercial aircraft pilots (the traditional kind). Details on the commercial ground school are still in development. The course offered in Fall 2020 will prepare graduates of the school to become ground instructors, able to teach other new pilots how to get started in a lucrative commercial aviation career.

Opportunities Galore

Recently awarded grant provides opportunities for new VGCC Students

VGCC continues to score big in the grant's arena. The college was recently awarded a grant designed to energize the workforce pipeline. Grants applications were crafted to address needs of individuals in specific demographics. Programs span skills and careers where jobs exist. We look forward to collaborating with other stakeholders to identify and support individuals looking to advance educational and career goals.

The \$1,186,900 Department of Labor Job Corps Scholar grant provides funding for at-risk Job Corps eligible youth ages 18- 24 yrs. Support for job skills, instruction, educational opportunities, and individualized employment counseling. Participants will be supported with intensive counseling services

to facilitate each student's employment and career success. Grant funds cover tuition and fees in Career and Technical training, Personal and Career Counseling, and Employment Counseling Services.



The 3-year program includes approximately eighty (80) Job Corps eligible youth entering the program in two separate groups or cohorts of 40. Eligible programs of study are: Office Administration, Information Technology, HVAC,

Automotive Technology, Electrical Systems, Welding, BioWorks. Programs are 12 months in length with and an additional period for job placement activities. For more information contact www.vgcc.edu/VGCVJCS

Industrial Maintenance comes up Short

VGCC welcomes Industrial Maintenance & Jeff Short to the workforce training team.

Industrial Maintenance, an often-overlooked career, refers to the repair and upkeep of equipment and machines used in an industrial setting. Modern machinery is complex, expensive, and critical to production. Skilled technicians diagnose malfunctions, plan upgrades, and perform preventative maintenance necessary for smooth operations. Job components can be segmented into the following categories: general knowledge, mechanical knowledge, electrical knowledge, welding knowledge, and preventative maintenance. Depending upon the employer, it could require other skills. Excellent technicians are curious, multi-skilled individuals, who examine malfunctions using a problem-solving process with an eye toward the best and safest solutions.

Years ago, Vance-Granville offered industrial maintenance as a curriculum option. We discontinued the course because of low enrollment and industry support. Beginning in Fall 2020, VGCC is excited to welcome Jeff Short as the instructor, and the return of Industrial Maintenance offered through Continuing Education. Recently retired from CertainTeed after a 40-year career, Jeff brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the program. During his career at CertainTeed, Jeff held roles in production, maintenance, and engineering. Working with Customized Training director JK Shearon, the duo has worked to develop stimulating lab experiences that ensure a thorough understanding of IM.

Launched in response to local business requests for training of existing and new maintenance employees, the program aligns with apprenticeship and workforce efforts. Offered in a four-module progression, the expected completion is 16 months, with a commitment of 12 hours per week of instruction/lab.



Each module contains courses focused on competencies designed to provide skills required to function in an ever-changing industrial environment. Classes will use SME's Tooling U for instructional content, allowing students to study Online for about half of the hours in each course. They will spend remaining hours in the lab to allow completion of hands-on practice with electrical, electronics, mechanical and hydraulic/pneumatic training equipment. The program is open to anyone. Students who enter the program as apprentices and complete training will receive the state apprenticeship, credential, and Federal journey worker credential. In response to additional employer concerns, we embedded essential skills training into the course to facilitate employee success. We designed the course to provide a pathway for continued skill and credential attainment. Several courses will qualify for course credit in the Mechatronics Engineering degree curriculum (CU) should students pursue the option later.

The Industrial Maintenance apprenticeship established under the Vanguard Apprenticeship Collaborative removes the paperwork burden from industry partners. VGCC will handle the apprenticeship records with sponsors providing the work-related instruction at their respective facilities. Students will be full-time employees and receive benefits, periodic evaluation, raises and tuition support (state and local support may be available) to sponsor employers. Individuals and businesses looking to enter the program should contact Jeff Short at shortj@vgcc.edu or Ken Wilson at wilsonk@vgcc.edu or 252-738-3259.

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Stay Connected With VGCC!



Vance-Granville Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Vance-Granville Community College. Vance-Granville Community College is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution. The college serves all students regardless of race, creed, color, age, sex, national origin, or disabling conditions. Vance-Granville Community College is a Tobacco-Free College.

