



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FINANCIAL HELP NOW AVAILABLE FOR HEALTH OCCUPATIONS TRAINING

FLOWER MOUND, TX—Area residents whose dreams of a well-paying job in the health care professions have been stymied by the cost of training and related obstacles may now have a real hope of seeing their dreams come true—thanks to a major new training initiative by North Central Texas College.

The training will be available this summer at the new NCTC campus in Flower Mound located at 1200 Parker Square.

Made possible by a \$4.1 million “Matrix Grant” from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), the program offers scholarships, childcare assistance, tutoring, counseling and remediation to those who qualify. Interested persons may begin applying immediately.

“Available training will prepare participants for a wide array of specific occupations,” said Angela Sharp, Matrix Health Care Grant coordinator, “from certified nurse aide to registered nurse and many other health care occupations in between.

“There are a wide variety of training tracks, starting with non-college-credit ‘continuing education-type’ programs of a few weeks duration for occupations like certified nurse aide, phlebotomist, medical billing and coding, pharmacy technician, EKG technician and more.”

These short-term programs are designed to stand alone or to allow students to progress on up to one-year college-credit certificate programs such as vocational (LVN) nursing, surgical technology or to full two-year associate degree programs in nursing (RN) and radiologic technology.

“We urge anyone who might be interested to contact the college right away,” said Sharp. “We’ve already seen a surprising turnout to our information sessions in both Flower Mound and Corinth, so it would be to their advantage to contact us as soon as possible to secure their place in the course of their choosing.”

She added that persons seeking more information may contact the NCTC Lifelong Learning Division at 940-668-4272 or visit the college website at www.nctc.edu/LifelongLearning. There, visitors will be able to access all of the information needed to research the health care course offerings, learn more about the grant and find out what courses are offered in their area this summer.

“Generally speaking”, said Sharp, “eligibility for training assistance under the DOL grant program is open to participants who are unemployed, have been laid off or have received notice of a pending layoff, as well as those currently working in the health care field.

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“And that includes persons who may be working part-time and wish to acquire skills to obtain fulltime employment.”

Sharp said it is difficult to overstate the importance of this grant and how it will benefit the unemployed and the underemployed in the college’s North Texas service area.

“Making it possible for students to receive high-quality training that will lead to good jobs with good pay and benefits will also have a hugely positive impact on the quality of health care in our region,” she said, “not to mention the boost it will give to our regional economy.”

The DOL grant is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, also known as “economic stimulus” funding.

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