

Success Stories @ PCCC

PCCC Healthcare Training Initiative (HCTI) Proves Rewarding for Graduates and Employers



Grant-funded HCTI Training Program Enables 39 Graduates to Land Good Jobs.

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Colleen Hurley, Vice President of Human Resources
Community Blood Services

Left: Jermel McKay, an HCTI grad and phlebotomy technician at Community Blood Services, prepares first-time blood donor Lisa Greco of Paramus.

The grant-funded Passaic County Multi-Skilled Healthcare Training Initiative (HCTI) at Passaic County Community College was established two years ago to train qualifying candidates for good jobs in the healthcare industry.

To date, some 39 HCTI grads from PCCC have been hired by leading healthcare employers, including Walgreens, Aculabs, St. Joseph’s Hospital, the American Red Cross, Quest Laboratories, Bioreference and CVS Pharmacies.

“I am extremely grateful to the HCTI grant program,” said David Matrille, a Fall 2010 graduate of the HCTI Phlebotomy Technician training program. David is now employed in a doctor’s office for Quest Laboratories and has already won company awards for his job performance.

The program has also been a resource to area employers seeking skilled individuals to fill available jobs. “Our partnership with PCCC has been a smart business decision,” said Colleen Hurley, Vice President of Human Resources for Community Blood Services (CBS) a supplier of blood and blood products to more than 30 hospitals in the NJ/NY region.

To date, four HCTI graduates are currently employed at CBS. In addition, the company has offered valuable externships to two current HCTI phlebotomy students.

“The success of our graduates proves that due to the challenging economic times, employers will turn to proven programs like HCTI to find the skilled workers they need to fill positions,” said Carol Adelson, Job Placement Coordinator for HCTI.



Layla Hammudeh a graduate of the HCTI Pharmacy Technician training program, did her clinical rotation requirement at Walgreens pharmacy in Fair Lawn.

“Layla’s training in the grant program helped prepare her for the job,” said Julia Kim, a registered pharmacist at the store. “We were so impressed with her work, we hired her.”

Photo: Layla (center) works at Walgreens under the supervision of Julia Kim (right) registered pharmacist.

The HCTI program is funded by a three-year, \$4.5 million federal grant to provide no-cost training to qualifying applicants in the skills needed for employment healthcare, a growing industry predicted to become the largest employer in Passaic County in the near future.

PCCC is one of only 55 training programs across the country to share in the prestigious grant which funds not only skills training, but also job placement services, including a boot camp and communications training to assist students in preparing for the job interview experience.

The HCTI program at PCCC offers training as a phlebotomy (blood-drawing) technician, pharmacy technician, or in electronic health records. The program also partners with healthcare companies in the area to provide students with expanded learning opportunities.

Walgreens, a partner in the program, enables HCTI pharmacy students to satisfy their clinical rotation requirements in their retail locations. “Walgreens is very excited to be working with PCCC in supporting their technician training program in Northern New Jersey,” said James Ward, a district supervisor for the pharmacy chain.

He added, “ It is very rewarding to see their students spending time in our stores enhancing their skills, then graduate, and go on to becoming pharmacy technicians in our stores.

People interested in job training or employers seeking placement services through HCTI can get more info at www.pccc.edu/hcti or by calling 973-684-5663.

Employers who would like to interview skilled phlebotomists, front office or electronic health records staff and pharmacy technicians, please contact Carol Adelson at 973-341-1617. She will match HCTI graduates to your hiring needs.

The HCTI program at Passaic County Community College is funded by a U.S. Department of Labor HGEI Grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)