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SCCC/ATS To Add Three New Programs

Seward County Community College/ Area Technical School is adding three new programs to its curriculum, including Corrosion Technology, Process Technology and Radiology Technology.

The United States Department of Education has approved the college for a Title V Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program Grant. To be eligible for this grant, 25 percent of the undergraduate full-time equivalent population must be Hispanic.

Project Manager Steve Wiens will direct the five-year grant, which totals \$3,235,913. The grant provides funding for an addition and renovation to the area technical school buildings at 2215 N. Kansas to house laboratories, classrooms and offices.

The Corrosion Technology program, which will include a one-year certificate and a two-year associate in applied science degree, will begin during the fall 2011 semester. In addition to an on-campus classroom and lab, the program will include a field lab that will have over 2,000 feet of pipeline to be used for training. New government regulations have focused on increased corrosion control, which is steadily increasing the demand for trained corrosion technicians. In the 4,912 square miles comprising the seven SCCC/ATS Kansas counties, more than 9,000 miles of pipeline must be checked regularly for corrosion, the leading cause of pipeline explosions. Only one other Corrosion Technology program exists in the country.

The Process Technology program, which will include a one-year certificate and a two-year associate in applied science degree, will begin in fall 2012.

Process Technology involves every aspect of chemical processing, including extracting and refining resources, such as oil and natural gas; refining chemicals; and carefully monitoring the process that makes it happen.

Process technology helps power plants maximize output and minimize emissions and lets waste- and water-treatment plants monitor industrial waste,

environmental impact and human health and safety. Nationally, only a few colleges offer programs that meet the criteria for training as process technicians in ethanol, bio-diesel, food processing, and related industries. The Radiologic Technology program, which will include a two-year associate in applied science degree, will begin in fall 2013.

Radiologic Technology trains students to take x-rays, perform CAT scans or administer non-radioactive materials into a patient's blood stream for diagnostic purposes. Radiologic technicians also specialize in computed tomography, ultrasound and magnetic resonance.

Each of these three programs will include alternate delivery of classes, including podcasts, online or hybrid classes, interactive or streaming video or web-based interactive delivery.

The grant provides an economic boost to the community as well as nearly \$1.5 million in personnel salaries and nearly \$1million in construction during the five years of grant activities. The injection of federal dollars will provide significant benefits to our community.

³This is an exciting opportunity for our college and our regional industry partners,² said Dr. Duane Dunn, SCCC/ATS president. ³The benefits of using grant funds to establish high technology and high wage career programs are evident and will provide benefits to our community for years after the grant concludes.²

For information about any of these programs, contact Wiens at 620-417-1653.

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