

GCHC grant provides opportunities toward future in health care

Billy Loveless, 12/1/2010

In this age of high unemployment rates and a slumping economy, finding jobs has proven to be a difficult task. Making matters worse, many career fields are on the decline or are simply not hiring workers, no matter how skilled or experienced the applicant is.

While many professions are becoming obsolete or cutting back, the health care field continues to rise. In fact, health care workers are currently in high demand. The one catch, however, is that training is needed before one can begin working in this potentially lucrative field.

Now, with help from a new community-based job training grant, obtaining the schooling to begin a career in the health care field is easier than ever. And it can be done at Brazosport College.

The Gulf Coast Health Care Partnership Grant is designed to assist students in beginning or expanding their careers in a variety of health care professions. Among the professions the grant assists are certified nurse's aide, phlebotomy technicians, medical assistants, EKG technicians and licensed vocational nurses, as well as the transition from LVN to becoming a registered nurse.

If one qualifies, the grant will cover 100 percent of the program tuition, fees and required textbooks. The grant is also designed to provide remedial training for ESL students enrolled in health care classes and to assist GED students in navigating the registration and program selection process.

In order to qualify for the grant, one must meet one of the following criteria:

- Low income (at or below 300 percent of Federal Poverty Level).
- Employed in a low to moderate skilled position and wanting to move to a higher skill level (worker not necessarily in health care, but making less than \$15 per hour).
- Unemployed.
- Dislocated worker (equal to or less than six months; more than six months is considered unemployed).

The funds for this grant are provided through the United States Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration. The Gulf Coast Health Care (GCHC) Partnership Project is a partnership with Brazosport College, College of the Mainland, Lee College and San Jacinto College.

To learn more about the grant and how one can get on the track to a new career in the health care field, call the Brazosport College Community Education Department at (979) 230-3600 or contact the grant coordinator at tempe.soell@brazosport.edu.