

News Release

Martin Community College – June 16, 2020



MCC's Division of Continuing Education Launches Apprentice Line Technician Academy in August

In response to the needs of local power providers, the Division of Continuing Education at Martin Community College (MCC) is launching an Apprentice Line Technician Academy on August 17. Initially, the class will meet Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the MCC campus in Williamston. However, once the 420-hours of training gets underway, the meeting hours will vary to accommodate outdoor activities. This inaugural class is slated to end in mid-December of 2020 and be ready for work in January of 2021!

Upon successful completion of the Academy, students will become desirable candidates for employment among numerous municipal, rural, and commercial power providers. Starting wages for apprentice line technicians in eastern NC are generally around \$17/hour with seasoned veterans reaching an average of \$50/hour. Students who complete the program at MCC may also roll their basic training into 2-year degree programs like the line technician program offered at Nash Community College.

Career line technicians can expect a fast-paced profession which is physically, mentally, and emotionally demanding. Line Technicians choose this career/lifestyle because they like working outside and have opportunity to progress within the career field.

MCC has been able to attract several seasoned line technicians to teach the classes. Students in the Academy will learn about such topics as: basic electricity, math, first-aid and CPR, competency training for UG (underground) excavations, flagger training, CDL

permit requirements/guidance, pole top and bucket rescue, fall arrest, lanyard positioning, climbing techniques, belt and chain hoist operation, telescopic stick operations on different devices, shotgun stick uses, arial framing, specs, measurements, materials and hardware, wire and connector types and sizes, preformed ties and tie wire, personal protective grounding, metering and installation of services, single phase transformer makeup, three-phase transformer banking, use of transformer gin and block and tackle, equipment operations (especially line truck, bucket truck, and excavator), and how to set up equipment for jobs.

Those interested in becoming a Line Technician should be in good physical health and able to move freely. Coordination, dexterity, stamina, and strength are also required as climbing, balancing, stooping, kneeling, crouching, reaching, standing, walking, pushing, pulling, lifting, and grasping are common for entry level line technician professionals. A line technician should also not have a fear of heights since this work requires the worker to be many feet off the ground for a large portion of their job duties.

Qualifying students must be 18 years of age prior to the conclusion of the training. Several forms of financial aid are available specifically for this training. All applicants are encouraged to apply for financial aid.

MCC is also coordinating this training with the high schools in its service area to provide a Line Tech career pathway through the state of North Carolina's Career and College Promise program. This will allow high school students to take free college classes that will prepare them for the Apprentice program at MCC or allow them to transfer several credits to degree programs at other colleges. These classes would include Electricity, DC/AC Electricity, National Electric Code, Diagrams and schematics, and Industrial Safety.

MCC's Interim President, Dr. Kenneth A. Boham stated, "The Apprentice Line Technician program is very much needed in this part of the state and MCC is proud to be a part of the initiative to make this training available to the communities we serve. This will be the gateway to many well-paying jobs for Martin and Bertie Counties."

Applications are now being accepted for MCC's Apprentice Line Technician program. Applications are available on the Continuing Education page of MCC's website. Those interested in applying may also contact Nathan Mizell at 252-789-0232 or via email at nathan.mizell@martincc.edu.