



WEST VIRGINIA COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE EDUCATION

Clarence B. Pennington, Chair • James L. Skidmore, Chancellor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – September 17, 2014

Contact:

Heather Raines
Director of Communications
Community and Technical College System of West Virginia (WVCTCS)
304-558-0087
raines@wvctcs.org

Community and Technical College System Awards Nearly \$300,000 in ‘Learn and Earn’ Grants

Charleston, W.Va. – The Community and Technical College System of West Virginia (WVCTCS) today announced that it has awarded five grants totaling nearly \$300,000 through the Learn and Earn Program, which provides paid on-the-job training for students in technical programs.

“Real job experience is crucial to student success,” said WVCTCS Chancellor James L. Skidmore. “This program takes technical education to the next level by training – and paying – our students on the job and infusing West Virginia’s workforce with highly-skilled individuals. Our students learn while West Virginia businesses gain. It’s a win-win.”

The WVCTCS approved the following awards:

- Advanced Technical Solutions (ATS) and Mountwest Community and Technical College will receive \$18,500 for students in the Information Technology Program.
- Gestamp and BridgeValley Community and Technical College will receive \$81,000 for students in the Machine Tool Technology Program.
- Gestamp and BridgeValley Community and Technical College will receive \$90,000 for students in the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Program.
- Union Carbide and BridgeValley Community and Technical College will receive \$43,546 for students in the Process Technology Program.
- DuPont and WVU at Parkersburg will receive \$65,376 for students in the Applied Science and Chemical Polymer Technology Certificate.

“Our state’s community and technical colleges are supporting our students and ensuring they have opportunities available to develop the skills they need to compete for the jobs of today and tomorrow,” Gov. Tomblin said. “The demand for technology-based careers in areas including advanced manufacturing and information technology is growing. By supporting programs like Learn and Earn, our state is answering this call and placing more West Virginians on track to be part of our competitive and well-equipped workforce.”

The Learn and Earn Program is a salary cost share between employers and the State of West Virginia that allows students to earn money while attending college. It is intended to support students who are enrolled in programs that lead to high-need, high- wage occupations. Students who are enrolled in one of the state’s community and

Community & Technical College System of WV

technical college programs can receive a salary for a cooperative or apprenticeship educational experience. Fifty percent of their salary is paid for by their employer, and 50 percent is paid for by the State.

###