

NEED A JOB?

Short-Term Training May Be the Answer

CONTENT PROVIDED BY DELAWARE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS of a recent higher education study, more than half of parents surveyed believe college costs do not justify the value of a college education, and less than half agree that U.S. colleges are preparing students well for the workplace.

This may be part of the reason community colleges are becoming a more popular choice for students who want to prepare themselves for a high-quality career at an affordable price.

At Delaware Technical Community College, students can enroll in a degree program, or they can begin with a workforce certification that will lead to a job in their field of interest in just weeks or months.

“Our Workforce Development and Community Education Division is designed to offer students a fast track to the skills they need to start working in fields like health care and information technology,” said Delaware Tech President Mark T. Brainard. “With these credentials they can start working, while at the same time pursuing additional credentials to help them advance to the next step on their career path.”

For example, a student could start by earning a certified nursing assistant certificate and begin work as a CNA. That student could then pursue credentials to become a phlebotomist or patient care technician.

“We want to create a career path for our students, not just help them get a job,” said Paul Morris, associate vice president for workforce development and community education at Delaware Tech.

Similarly, information technology (IT) students can “stack” credentials, starting as a Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) and then progressing to become a Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP) and Cisco Certified Network Security Associate (CCNA Security Certificate). Along the way, students can enter the workforce to get job experience and earn an income before returning to earn additional credentials that will help them advance professionally in the IT field.

“Our workforce development programs are an excellent option for students who need to enter the workforce but don’t have the time, resources, or desire to enroll in a degree program,” said Justina M. Sapna, Delaware Tech vice president for academic affairs.

Shameika Carroll is currently working toward her patient care technician certification at Delaware Tech. She decided to pursue a career change after spending 12 years working in the early childhood field and was drawn to the program at Delaware Tech because she “wanted to acquire additional



CNA students get hands-on experience during a phlebotomy lab.

skills in a short amount of time.”

She values the hands-on lab work that is part of the program so she can participate in simulated experiences like those she would face in an actual patient care setting.

“The labs are preparing us for what we’re actually going to see out in the field,” she said.

Carroll said she’s had “great instructors” and is thankful to them for working with her when she had to miss several weeks of classes due to her daughter’s birth late last year.

“The instructors here want you to succeed,” she said, “and they go the extra miles to make sure that happens.”

Carroll’s instructor, Ellen Coyle, said a number of her students are already working in the healthcare field. Coyle joined Delaware Tech nearly two years ago after retiring from a 30-year career at ChristianaCare and was impressed by the College’s program offerings in the health care field.

“Basically, if you apply yourself, the world is at your fingertips,” she said. “The students are very appreciative of the opportunity.”

There are many workforce development opportunities at Delaware Tech, not just in health care and information technology, but in culinary arts, automotive repair, maintenance and many other fields. For more information, visit <https://www.dtcc.edu/continuing-education/workforce-training>. ■