

Around the Regions



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**CENTRAL
 REGION**
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The **Indiana** Department of Workforce Development and Ivy Tech Community College announced an initiative that will give high school and community college students access to cloud computing courses and certifications. Ivy Tech says the initiative will train, upskill, and certify at least 5,000 Hoosiers over the next two years to qualify for cloud computing jobs in their communities in collaboration with Amazon Web Services.

A new round of workforce training agreements between businesses and Northeast **Iowa** Community College (NICC) will help employers remain competitive and hire new skilled employees in the next year. As part of the 260E Iowa Industrial New Jobs Training program, the agreements will offset training costs for businesses seeking to upskill their workforce. Training can include skills such as welding, industrial maintenance, heavy equipment operation, workplace safety and computer skills, as well as human resources, management, and leadership training.

Lorain County Community

College (LCCC), Sinclair Community College, and Clark State Community College in **Ohio** have partnered with global aerospace and defense contractor ARCTOS Technology Solutions to develop smart manufacturing technologies and training programs for students, educators, and employers. The project is funded through the Air Force Research Lab. It builds on existing smart manufacturing initiatives led by LCCC in collaboration with industry, economic, and workforce development leaders.

Clark State College and Sinclair Community College in western Ohio established baccalaureate programs built on the strengths of their associate degree programs. Academic leaders of the two colleges say they are collaborating to serve their students and address local workforce needs.



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**NORTHEAST
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Morris County, **New Jersey**, announced major expansions of programs at both Morris County Vocational School and the County College of Morris (CCM). The Morris County Vocational School will expand

by 30 percent with the creation of a new Career Technical Education Center, which will be built at CCM. The center will add 500 students to the Morris County Vocational School District enrollment, exposing career-focused and college-bound high school students to the type of specialized skills that will lead them to successful futures.

Atlantic Cape Community College will receive \$3 million to start a safety training program for offshore wind projects as the winner of the New Jersey Offshore Wind Safety Training Challenge. "Offshore wind is an exciting industry that will open doors for thousands of New Jerseyans, and we are thrilled to play a part in preparing students and workers to participate in this exciting new industry at our Worthington Atlantic City Campus," Atlantic Cape President Barbara Gaba told the *Press of Atlantic City*.

Vermonters whose employment has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic can again take a free class or training through the **Vermont** State Colleges System (VSCS) this fall. The Vermont State Colleges — Castleton University, Community College of Vermont, Northern Vermont University, and Vermont Technical College — are offering numerous training options at all four institutions across many high-demand industries and via online and in-person formats.



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**PACIFIC
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California community colleges will get \$100 million to help homeless and food insecure students as part of a \$47.1 billion higher education spending plan that Gov. Gavin Newsom signed this summer. The community college funding for students in need will support meal donation programs, food pantries, CalFresh enrollment, and other nutrition assistance programs. It also will help colleges offer on- and off-campus housing resources.

Eloy Ortiz Oakley, the chancellor of California's 116 community colleges, began an unpaid adviser position in the Biden administration during a four-month paid sabbatical from the community college system this summer. Oakley will spend his time away from the system on a temporary assignment as a higher education adviser to U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. Oakley is expected to return to his position as chancellor in late November.

Almost 2,000 recipients, the most ever, received **Hawai'i** Promise scholarship aid from

the University of Hawai'i's seven community colleges for the 2020-21 academic year. Nearly \$3 million was awarded, with an average of \$1,551 given to 1,900 recipients who qualified for resident tuition and demonstrated financial need. Students are first awarded Pell grants, UH scholarships, and private scholarships before being awarded a Hawai'i Promise scholarship for unmet direct costs such as tuition, fees, books, supplies, and local transportation. A high percentage of recipients are underrepresented students.



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**SOUTHERN
 REGION**
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Wayne Community College in **North Carolina** is set to become the second community college in the country to launch an artificial intelligence program for students. Program leaders hope the cutting-edge track will help WCC students and the Goldsboro community capitalize on the state's burgeoning tech boom.

Duke Energy has awarded \$615,000 in grants to 19 workforce development and education programs in North Carolina to help job seekers and students prepare for employment, particularly in the energy sector. The grants support innovative workforce education and training initiatives at community colleges, historically black colleges and universities, and nonprofits across the state. These grants are part of Duke Energy's ongoing commitment to workforce development, which has totaled \$6.3 million over the last five years.

Tri-County Technical College and Clemson University will work with school districts in Oconee County and Anderson County, **South Carolina**, to make education degrees less expensive and take less time to complete. Almost 700 certified teaching and service positions were vacant across the state at the start of last school year, a 26 percent increase from the previous year, according to a report by the state's Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement.

Northern **Virginia** Community College (NOVA) is accepting applications for a new information technology (IT) apprenticeship program created with AT&T and the

Virginia Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI). The program offers NOVA students IT training and on-the-job experience with AT&T and seeks to create a larger pool of talent to meet the needs of federal customers in the national security sector.



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**WESTERN
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Johnson County Community College is one of more than two dozen schools and colleges awarding the **Kansas** Promise Scholarship to qualified students. This scholarship program offers Kansans opportunities to launch a career, gain new skills, or advance in a current position — all while avoiding student loan debt. In exchange, students agree to live and work in Kansas for two years after completing their program of study.

The Rural Community College Alliance (RCCA), Greater Texas Foundation (GTF), and Economic Mobility Systems (EMS) at the

Commit Partnership launched a collaborative program to produce stronger and more equitable college and workforce outcomes for rural Texas students in August. Funded by a three-year, \$3.1 million grant from GTF, the Rural College Promise program will involve three community colleges — Grayson College, Tyler Junior College, and North Central Texas College — and the rural counties they serve across north and east Texas. Supporting partners also include the National College Promise Campaign and Phi Theta Kappa.

The U.S. Dept. of Education awarded Lone Star College in **Texas** \$2.07 million under the CARES Act through the Institutional Resilience and Expanded Postsecondary Opportunity (IREPO) grant program to address the greatest unmet needs related to the pandemic. These resources enable institutions to resume or enhance in-person and online operations and implement COVID-19 mitigation strategies.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott signed a bill allowing community colleges to offer up to five four-year bachelor's degree programs. The College of the Mainland announced that its first four-year program will be for students working to get their bachelor's degree in nursing.

Around the Regions provides an opportunity to share what's happening in the states and around the regions. This section focuses on state legislative and budgetary issues, economic development, and finance. Please e-mail items from press releases or newsletters to ACCT at jbray@acct.org.