



Harvest Ministries Hosts Community Day

On Saturday May 30 hundreds of people gathered in the parking lot of Harvest Ministries in Wadesboro for a Community Day. Guests received greetings from Alisa Williams, the general manager of a local restaurant, and received coupons for food and promotional merchandise.

During the event there was free face painting, free hot dogs and drinks, free groceries for the crowd, and many prizes. Children left with toys, stuffed animals, and special prizes. Guests were able to enjoy a bounce house, dunking booth and other games.

The Wadesboro Fire Department was present with a fire truck for citizens to view, ask questions, and meet staff.

Sheriff Landric Reid was present, along with the Sheriffs Department "drunk" golf cart, which was used to show youth and adults the dangers of drunk driving. Special Guests included Spongebob Square Pants, Dora the Explorer, and many more!

Adams and Williams both like to thank the man who arranged and made this event so successful. Special thanks to Sheriff Landric Reid, Wadesboro Fire Chief Mark Sessions, and all the many volunteers and staff who worked to make the event possible.

Pastor Adams concluded, "To be able to provide events like this with great community businesses and partners makes it an even bigger blessing, knowing that local businesses support our community is a win-win for this area."

Adams ended the event with a few encouraging words and a prayer for the entire community. For more information on the Community Programs of Harvest contact 704-695-2879.

RCC Adds Evening Energy Program to Meet Job Demand

The demand is clear. The utility industry wants to hire graduates from Richmond Community College's Electric Utility Substation and Relay Technology program, which is why the College is adding a new one-year diploma to its curriculum offerings this fall.

The Electric Utility Transformer Test Specialist diploma program can be completed in four semesters with classes being offered in the evening to cater to those who already have employment but may be looking for a change in careers. The diploma program was created in response to the utility industry's immediate demand for more technicians capable of working on large power transformers.

"Students can complete this program in one year and get a job in the utility industry providing installation, commissioning, maintenance and trouble-shooting for large power transformers and maintenance for electric utility substations," said RCC's Engineering Department Chair Amir Niczad. "Our two-year degree program already has a 100 percent job placement rate for graduates, so we know there is a real need for the type of skills we are teaching in Electric Utility Substation and Relay Technology."

RCC is the only college in the country to offer a two-year degree program like the Electric Utility Substation and Relay Technology (EUSRT) and is also the only college in the country with a working substation on its campus. The Electric Utility Transformer Test Specialist one-year diploma program will also be unique to RCC.

"We are seeking ambitious students for this new diploma program that will prepare them for high skill, high paying jobs in the utility industry," RCC President Dr. Dale McInnis said. "We listened to the utility industry's request for testing technicians and to our students looking for more evening program options. You can't get this type of training in one year anywhere else in the country," McInnis added.

Graduates who receive the Electric Utility Transformer Test Specialist diploma will be able to find employment with utility companies as well as supporting companies in the industry, such as transformer manufacturers. Graduates of the diploma program will also be considered one year into the EUSRT associate degree program, so they continue their studies or go to work.

Graduates of both the diploma and degree program have high earning potential. Graduates of the EUSRT degree program are making between \$40,000 and \$60,000 their first year working in the utility industry. Niczad estimated graduates of the diploma program would make between \$30,000 and \$50,000.

Enrollment Information This program will be offered for the first time this fall semester, which begins August 17. Registration for fall classes at RCC will be held June 25 and July 9, from 2:30 to 5:45 p.m. at the College's main campus, located at 1042 West Hamlet Avenue in Hamlet. To learn more about the Electric Utility Transformer Test Specialist or EUSRT program, visit www.richmondcc.edu or call (910) 410-1700.

Pictured above, Electric Utility Substation and Relay Technology (EUSRT) instructor Morteza Talebi talks to a group of students about transformers at the substation on Richmond Community College's campus in Hamlet.

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(704) 695-1644 or uptownwadesboro@windstream.net

Lamont Foster earns Master of Divinity Degree

Rev. Dr. Lamont Freeman Foster, Sr. of Wadesboro received a Master of Divinity degree from Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury, NC at the commencement ceremony on May 16. Foster also holds a B.S. from the University of Connecticut, a M.A. from North Carolina Central University and an Ed.D. from Appalachian State University.

Foster is pastor of Pleasant Hill A.M.E. Zion Church in Wadesboro. He is married to Minister Yolanda Alston-Foster.

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