RCC hosts info sessions on Apprenticeship Randolph

ASHEBORO — Randolph Community College is hosting two information sessions for students and parents wanting to learn more about Apprenticeship Randolph: Thursday, Jan. 31, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. and Wednesday, Feb. 6, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the R. Alton Cox Learning Resources Center auditorium at 629 Industrial Park Ave., Asheboro.

Apprenticeship Randolph is entering its third year of recruitment, starting with information sessions at each area high school at the end of this month and the first of February.

Apprenticeship Randolph began in June 2016 as a collaboration among RCC, the Randolph County School System, Asheboro City Schools, the Asheboro/Randolph Chamber of Commerce and members of the local manufacturing industry.

The goal was to bridge both the interest and skills gap in modern manufacturing and provide a vehicle for expanding the workforce pool for advanced manufacturing in the county. With tuition funded through Career and College Promise and the N.C. Youth Apprenticeship Tuition Waiver Program and books paid for by the school systems and the participating companies, Apprenticeship Randolph produces an educated, skilled, debt-free workforce.

The program, which is for high school juniors and seniors, begins with a six-week, pre-apprenticeship summer program that consists of two RCC classes and 40 hours per week of on-the-job training.

Once a business selects its apprentice after this trial period, the program is spread over four years with students receiving paid, on-the-job training while earning an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Manufacturing Technology through RCC and a Journeyman Certificate from the N.C. Community College System and U.S. Department of Labor.

Currently, there are 28 apprentices in the program with titles such as CNC machinist, tool maker, medical knitting technician, robotics technician, maintenance technician, plastics technician and electronics technician.

Industry leaders will present at the high schools Jan. 28-Feb. 7. After that, the industries will open their doors to students and parents during Apprenticeship Randolph Industry Open Houses Feb. 11-March 4.

Four new companies have been added for 2019. In addition to Accuchrome, Allen Machine & Fabrication, Convanta Environmental Solutions, DS Smith, Energizer, EG Industries, Elastic Therapy Inc., Hubbell Industrial Controls, Jaeco Precision Inc., MAS Acme, Mohawk Industries, PEMMCO Manufacturing, Phoenix Precision Machining, Post Consumer Brands, Sapon Plastics and Technimark, Jowat Adhesives, Unique Tool and Manufacturing, United Brass Works and Loflin Fabrication are now taking part in the program.

A Spanish translator will be on hand at both of the sessions at RCC.

For more information, visit apprenticeship-randolph.com; students should speak with the career development coordinator at their school.