

The Press and Standard

OPINION

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Tuesday, May 24, 2011

OUR VIEW

QuickJobs in a new world

Flexibility in course offerings is part of its design

American industry experts agree that at least two-thirds of all future jobs will require specific or occupational training, not a four-year degree, according to the S.C. Technical College System.

It really doesn't take an expert to understand that. All one has to do is compare today's world with that of only 25 years ago. The world has gone technical, specialized and fluid, with new technologies being born more and more rapidly. Much more frequently than we've seen before (the drying up of the textile industry was just the beginning for South Carolinians), careers will appear, then disappear as new markets and job requirements arise. Training, re-training and re-training yet again throughout one's working life will be the norm.

The areas with job growth, when

EDITORIAL

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that growth begins again, won't have much to offer people with four-year liberal arts degrees. That's not to say that a liberal arts education is without value to anyone fortunate enough to have the time and money to obtain it. But not many fields of work today require it. And let's face it: a well-paying job comes first.

Industry-recognized certification is replacing the college-conferred degree as a prerequisite to employment.

Today's industries, however, have become so globally competitive that most companies want already certified employees rather than spending time and money to train employees

on the job.

That is why the soon-to-be-open adult jobs training center, known as the QuickJobs Center, here in Colleton County is a bigger deal than most of us might think. It would be a mistake to think of the center as an institution that offers a static collection of training programs year after year. Initially, it will offer courses in three areas — basic HVAC maintenance, basic electricity and the basic training for the construction industry — but it is intended to be, over time, a flexible facility offering different courses as new industry demands arise.

The QuickJobs Center is one of the tools our county has long needed in order to offer existing and new industries the trained workforce that heretofore has been unavailable, and we all should embrace it.