

■ QUICK JOBS

Grand opening set for training center

By GEORGE SALSBERY
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It is time to cut the ribbon on the county's new adult training center.

The grand opening of the Colleton County Quick Jobs Center is scheduled for Aug. 10 at 5 p.m.

The 23,000 square-foot training center at 1085 Thunderbolt Drive, next door to the school system's Thunderbolt Career and Technology Center, will be operated by the Technical College of the Lowcountry in partnership with Colleton County.

"The Quick Job Center offers new opportunities for workforce training to the residents of Colleton, which has long been a goal of county council," Colleton County Administrator Kevin Griffin said.

TCL President Tom Lietzel added, TCL is ready to serve the citizens of Colleton County. "We value our partnership with Colleton County and are extremely pleased to have a physical presence in Walterboro."

Rhonda Johns, a Colleton County resident, has been named the center's new coordinator, joining the staff of TCL after a 25-year career in the financial services industry.

Johns is excited about her new post. "It is important for the county to offer companies looking at Colleton County skilled employees and for that you need a training center," Johns said. It is an important aspect for any community.

Johns suggests that because of the economy, adult vocational training centers are going to have an even bigger impact on economic development. What employment will be available in the future will be skill-based jobs, she offers.

Johns served as a regional vice president in the Texas/Southwest Region for companies such as MassMutual, John Hancock, and State Street Research.

Upon her return to Colleton County in 2010, she worked

at the Walterboro-Colleton Chamber of Commerce and Clear Vision.

During her years in the private sector, Johns said, she sent part of that time as a trainer. When she moved into sales, Johns added, she continued to have a role in training and public speaking.

Johns is a 1988 graduate of the University of South Carolina and has one daughter, Sydney, who is a freshman at the College of Charleston.

With the technical assistance of the Lowcountry Council of Governments, the center was funded by a variety of sources including the South Carolina Department of Commerce, the federal Economic Development Act, Colleton County Council, Colleton County School District and TCL.

The facility includes four training labs and four classrooms, giving it flexibility to meet a variety of training

needs for the Colleton County workforce now and in the future, according to Nancy Weber, TCL vice president for continuing education and institutional advancement.

The facility also houses a multi-tiered classroom compete with Internet and video conferencing technology that will also be available to area business for their training and conference needs.

Colleton County residents will have their first chance to take advantage of the Center during the Grand Opening Week. The Technical College of the Lowcountry will offer a series of free continuing mini-course offerings Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of grand opening week.

Allen Grayson, TCL continuing education industrial program coordinator, will be coordinating various workforce programs including HVAC maintenance, heavy equipment operation, basic

electricity and basic construction.

In addition, there are plans to focus on other programs that have been identified as potential future job growth areas such as mining, welding distribution and logistics.

Professional Development and Personal Interest course will also be included in the center's offerings.

"Equipment purchase: are continuing to arrive and instructors are being hired," said Grayson, indicating that the course schedule for the Center will be completed within the next few weeks.

"The Economic Alliance is pleased to have the center up and operating. Quality training programs are important to companies who are interested in locating in Colleton County. This is a significant benefit for Colleton," said Heyward Horton, Colleton County Economic Alliance executive director.



Photo by GEORGE SALSBERY

TRAINING CENTER COORDINATOR. Colleton County resident Rhonda Johns arrived for her first day of work Monday after being hired by the Technical College of the Lowcountry as the coordinator of the new Colleton County Quick Jobs Center. The adult training center's grand opening will be held Aug. 10 at 5 p.m.

QUICK JOBS TRAINING

To give residents a chance to test drive the education facilities and offerings of the Colleton County Quick Job Center, the Technical College of the Lowcountry will be offering several free courses as part of the grand opening.

Although the classes are free those interested in attending are asked to pre-register by calling 1-843-525-8205.

AUG. 9, 9 A.M. TO NOON INTRO TO COMPUTERS.

Do you need help figuring it out or just turning it on? Take this class to become better acquainted with the computer. This session focuses on the basics of the machine and additional concepts.

AUG. 10, 10 A.M. TO NOON INTRO TO WORD

Microsoft Word 2010 has many new, super applications. Learn the Word interface (the tools of the trade), discover entering text, pictures, be introduced to how to create documents using templates, and more. This class is for anyone with an interest in word processing.

AUG. 10, 11 A.M. TO NOON GET MORE DONE IN LESS TIME.

AUG. 10, 2 P.M. TO 3 P.M. TCL CONTINUING EDUCATION OVERVIEW.

AUG. 11, 10 A.M. TO NOON INTRO TO EXCEL.

Microsoft Excel 2010 is a spreadsheet application software. Spreadsheets have several uses including tracking budgets, statistics, lists and so much more. The spreadsheet interface is capable of performing tasks such as formulas, charts, graphs and even predictions. This class is an introduction to these concepts and will allow the student to become more familiar with the screen and menu options.