Building Futures in the Sandhills

With over 225 construction-related businesses and an ever-increasing number of building permits issued each year, construction is one of Moore County's top industries. But with that comes a substantial shortage of trained and skilled HVAC, plumbing, carpentry, and construction professionals.

Several years ago, Sandhills Community College committed to providing training for those seeking careers in the local building industry. Community partners support this effort by serving in advisory capacities for the new Construction Program and providing employment opportunities for graduates. Some have even offered classroom space while the College worked to secure a permanent home for the program.

A New Instruction Facility

In early 2020, the College secured grant and donor funding to support the building of a facility to be used to teach construction trades. Fifty-nine percent of the $1,162,080 project estimate has been awarded to the College through a Golden LEAF Foundation grant. Other money was secured through the Weiss Family Foundation, The Palmer Foundation, Peterson Funds through the SCC Foundation, the American Red Cross and SCC Workforce Development.

A 3,600 square foot facility will be built on the grounds of the Larry R. Caddell Public Safety Training Center in Carthage. Located on the Niagara-Carthage Road, it will be a pre-engineered metal building housing three classrooms, two labs, and an open-air learning lab. The completion date estimate is late 2021.

Construction Training at SCC

Credentials in HVAC, Carpentry, Construction Leadership, and Plumbing can be earned after taking classes at Sandhills. Most classes can be completed in four to six months, with the majority being offered two to three nights a week.

Because of the enormous generosity of the College's funding partners, the cost of these classes is waived.

Students must be at least 16 years of age and have a high school or High School Equivalency diploma. Classes are open enrollment, meaning one does not have to take or pass any sort of test to begin.

High school students can also take some of the classes through the Workforce Continuing Education Career and College Promise program. These are free and meet five days a week for one semester, one to two class periods each.

The SCC Engineering Program

Sandhills offers Associate in Applied Science degrees and certificates in Geomatics (surveying), Civil Engineering, and Architectural Technology. A new program begins fall semester in Environmental Engineering.

These four programs are taught on the Pinehurst campus and in hybrid or online formats.

Industrial Systems Technology is taught at the Sandhills Hoke Center in Raeford. Here students can earn an Associate in Applied Science degree, a Diploma or certificates in Industrial Maintenance, Machining Technology, or Production Technologies.

See page 52 for information about these five programs.