

Burlington College and Vermont HITEC announce the Institute for American Apprenticeships

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Media contact:

Juliane Hegle, JD, CFM, CDE, CPhT

Media Relations

Vermont HITEC, Inc.

156 Commerce Street | P.O. Box 1548

Williston, VT 05495

Cell: 802.734.2475 | Telephone: 802.872.0660

julie.hegler@vthitec.org

Coralee A. Holm

Director of Community & Alumni Relations

Burlington College

351 North Avenue Burlington, VT 05401

802.923.2314

cholms@burlington.edu

Programs provide opportunities for education and guaranteed jobs

Burlington College and Vermont HITEC have partnered to create the Institute for American Apprenticeships. The partnership combines workforce education, an apprenticeship, and a liberal arts education. Programs in information technology, advanced manufacturing, allied health, and business services are the initial focus due to employer needs.

“The newly formed Institute for American Apprenticeships at Burlington College merges the accelerated workforce education and registered apprenticeship of Vermont HITEC programs

with the individualized general education requirements of a Burlington College liberal arts degree,” said Gerry Ghazi, President of Vermont HITEC.

While the costs of higher education continue to climb, Burlington College remains committed to providing individualized education at an affordable cost. The Institute for American Apprenticeships provides a pathway for Vermonters to obtain gainful employment and a degree through an accelerated program. Because the Institute is funded by employers and through grants, graduates earn their degree at very low cost, and many at no cost.

President Carol Moore said, “Burlington College has a history of educating working adults and experiential learning, and the Institute for American Apprenticeships continues this work. We are excited to provide Vermonters with the opportunity of a guaranteed job and completing a degree, which can further their careers.”

Students begin their education with an intensive HITEC academic program followed by a full-time registered apprenticeship, earning credit and a certificate along the way. The apprenticeship takes place at the jobsite, and students become full-time employees of the employer-sponsor. Students are awarded a certificate after completing 24-30 credits of the academic program and are awarded an additional 21 credits during the registered apprenticeship. The remaining 15 credits are earned in general education, leading to an individualized associate’s degree.

“It is great to see the students receive the academic credit and credentials they deserve for going through a very challenging education program,” said John Collins, Vermont HITEC Board Member. “Individuals no longer have to choose between working full-time or going to college; through this affiliation, students can now do both.”

The Institute is beginning the selection process for the next session of students in information technology tonight, and classes will begin on March 30, 2015.