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Vermont program combines classes, work, leading to degree and job

Associated Press

Tuesday, March 3, 2015

(Published in print: Tuesday, March 3, 2015)

A new apprenticeship program aimed at helping students join the workforce full time while earning credits toward college degrees is getting under way.

The Institute for American Apprenticeships is the creation of Burlington College in Vermont, a small liberal arts college with about 215 students, and Vermont HITEC, a nonprofit group that works to find and train unemployed and underemployed people from Vermont and New Hampshire. It's funded by employers and through grants.

Programs in information technology, advanced manufacturing, allied health and business services are the initial focus due to employer needs.

Students begin their educations with intensive HITEC academic programs followed by full-time registered apprenticeships, earning credits and certificates. Students become full-time employees of the employer-sponsors.

Students are awarded certificates after completing 24-30 credits of the academic programs.

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