



city of
bristol

News Release

Bristol Public Library and Northeast State Community College Form Alliance for Workforce Training

The City of Bristol congratulates the Northeast State Community College on its \$150,000 grant to support advanced technology workforce training opportunities throughout Northeast Tennessee. The three year grant will be administered by the College Access Programs office at Northeast State.

Funding for the new program is provided through a Walmart Foundation grant. It is referred to as the JRWA Initiative which stands for Job Ready, Willing, and Able. Northeast State is one of only seventeen colleges across the United States to receive the reward.

The JWRA Initiative will recruit new students to Northeast State's advanced technology programs with the goal to provide students with new skills, credentials, and jobs. Students will receive help with admissions, financial aid, career guidance, and counseling. Additional support will be provided to students already enrolled in Northeast State's advanced technology programs.

"The program will work with students to build their employability," said Ashley Dickson, interim director of College Access Programs. "This means help with resume skills, interviewing skills, and finding internship and job shadowing opportunities." Dickson said the program will provide assistance for up to 350 people.

The JWRA Initiative will focus on several advanced technology programs such as welding, electrical, electromechanical, machine tool, manufacturing/engineering and chemical process operations. Students will be able to work toward one year certificates or two year degrees. An ample supply of employers has demands for these skill sets in the region.

To increase access to those who have questions about the JWRA Initiative or who want to enroll in the program, Northeast State Community College's College Access Programs and the Bristol Public Library have formed an alliance. Each Tuesday from 1PM until 4:30PM there will be a NSCC representative available at the main Library in the Blue Stocking Room on the ground floor. "We are very pleased to be able to work with Northeast State to provide easy access to their information and help for our community. This program is a valuable resource for those who are looking to gain better skills and better jobs," said Doris Stickley, Director of Marketing for the Bristol Public Library. "There are some very exciting changes happening at the Library and we think working with Northeast State and other area resources gives us a much broader reach into our community and its needs.