

FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRAINING AVAILABLE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CAREERS

Get started on an environmental career this summer! Qualified individuals can receive free community college tuition for courses leading to a credential in environmental technology through the Chesapeake Area Consortium for Higher Education (CACHE) Institute for Environmental Careers.

Registration for the summer session begins Tuesday, March 15.

“Tuition is free for qualified applicants through the U.S. Department of Labor, which has allocated funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009,” said Sue Gallagher, CACHE project manager. “Expansion of a work force equipped with environmental skills is essential to meet projected growth among industries and firms supporting conservation practices in and around the Chesapeake Bay.”

CACHE areas of study include a variety of short-term environmental programs (three to 10 courses) provided by four consortium-member community colleges: Anne Arundel Community College, Chesapeake College, College of Southern Maryland and Wor-Wic Community College. Some courses are available online.

At AACC, the four environmental credentials participants can earn are: Ecosystem Restoration Certificate (30 credits/eight courses), Ecosystem Restoration Letter of Recognition (10 credits/three courses), Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Certificate (35 credits/nine courses) and Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Letter of Recognition (11 credits/three courses).

Areas of study offered by the other consortium partners include Environmental Technology, Environmental Planning, Environmental Management and Environmental Energy Technology.

These programs can lead to careers such as natural resources technicians, environmental consultants, environmental or biological systems engineers, ecology educators, soil and water conservation technicians, fish or wildlife management technicians, forestry technicians, surveying assistants and wastewater technicians. State occupational projections predict strong growth in environmental jobs over the next decade.

For information about the CACHE program and summer registration contact Gallagher at 410-777-2124 or e-mail sgallagher5@aacc.edu or visit the CACHE website at http://www.aacc.edu/cache/default_env.html.

CACHE is a collaboration of community colleges and workforce agencies that surround the Chesapeake Bay.