

# ABTech talk

A publication for employees and friends of Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College

Vol. 15 Issue 4

April 2009

## A-B Tech Receives Grant for Project Skill-UP

The Economic and Workforce Development/Continuing Education Division of A-B Tech has received a state grant to assist individuals adversely impacted by changes in the tobacco industry. The \$40,000 Project Skill-UP grant was awarded through the North Carolina Community College System from the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission.



The goal of the project is to provide short-term training and educational financial assistance to those who have been impacted because of decreased tobacco production or changes in the tobacco industry in recent years.

"We will be hiring a part-time coordinator to administer the grant, which will include recruiting, counseling, assessment, and placement for those participating in the program," said Shelley White, Occupational and Public Service Training executive director. "We hope to have this position filled soon with training funds being made available in April."

Historically, North Carolina has ranked as one of the top tobacco-producing states in the country. However, many local farmers are no longer producing tobacco, and others have consolidated their farming efforts requiring less labor. Western North Carolina lost more than 1,700 tobacco farms between 2002 and 2007 and the region as a whole lost farms at a higher rate than the state, according to the 2007 Agriculture Census released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The funding will help the College further its mission of providing career development opportunities, including short-term occupational skills training and a program developed for farmers interested in crop diversification and agri-tourism.

"We are excited to offer 'good news' and support to those who may be struggling to find funds for education during this tough economic time," White said.

The NC Tobacco Trust Fund was created in 2000 by the NC General Assembly to help members of the tobacco community - including farmers, tobacco workers and related businesses - lessen the impact of declining tobacco production. The commission's funding comes from monies paid by cigarette manufacturers as a result of the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement.

For more information on Project Skill-UP, contact White at [swhite@abtech.edu](mailto:swhite@abtech.edu) or Ext. 5836 or Ken O'Connor, Workforce Development Executive Director, at [koconnor@abtech.edu](mailto:koconnor@abtech.edu) or Ext. 5823.

[back to top](#)

[« Welcome, New Employees](#)

### Headlines

[Sustainability Efforts Grow at A-B Tech](#)

[Students for a Sustainable Campus Active at A-B Tech](#)

[Call for Entries: A-B Tech Recycling Program Logo Competition](#)

[Sustainability Classes Through GI ST Having Great Success](#)

[Schober Brings Biotechnology to Middle School Students](#)

[Alcohol Awareness Event Planned for National Screening Day](#)

[A-B Tech Graduate Finds Success at UNC Dental Assisting School](#)

[Foundation Partnership with Charlotte Street Computers Provides Affordable Computers for Students](#)

[Davis Honored by Asheville Police Department](#)

[A-B Tech Dental Program Partnership Receives Proclamation from Mayor](#)

[Children's Author Kimberly P. Johnson Headlines Early Childhood Conference at A-B Tech](#)

[Meet Foundation Scholarship Recipients](#)

[Foundation Celebrates Scholarship Recipients, New Scholarships](#)

[Invitational Education Committee Sponsors Interview Style](#)

[NCCCS Art Show Highlights A-B Tech Talent](#)

[Welcome, New Employees](#)

[A-B Tech Receives Grant for Project Skill-UP](#)

[Welding Students Test Latest Technology](#)

[Tech Notes](#)

[Back Talk: Previous issues of Tech Talk](#)  
[A-B Tech homepage](#)

[Welding Students Test Latest Technology »](#)

*Tech Talk* is published by the Communications Office for employees and friends of Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College.  
Editor: Mona Cornwell, Writer: Martha Ball, Designers: Justin Page, April Sides  
Send submissions to: Mona Cornwell, Director of Communications, at [mcornwell@abtech.edu](mailto:mcornwell@abtech.edu)  
Publication of the next issue is scheduled for May 1. Deadline for submissions is April 17.