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## **South Suburban College announces \$1.5 million Workforce Equity Grant with new career programs**

SOUTH HOLLAND, IL – South Suburban College recently announced its selection for a Workforce Equity Grant through the Illinois Community College Board which includes funding for several new in-demand programs. The project is designed to create, support and expand short-term workforce training opportunities in high need areas within SSC District #510. Through expanded access, opportunity, and support services, the project is anticipated to yield impactful outcomes for individuals, families, communities, local businesses.

“We are so pleased to receive this grant for the benefits it will provide to our student participants, as well as its establishment of new highly employable career programs,” said Frank M. Zuccarelli, Chairman of the SSC Board of Trustees. “I commend the ICCB for recognizing the importance of providing assistance to students who need it the most, while also creating critical opportunities for meaningful employment.”

The project provides wrap-around services including financial assistance and academic support to participating students within five program areas providing stackable credentials including Nursing and Patient Care Technician (PCT), Basic Nursing Assistance Training Program (BNATP), Community Healthcare Worker (CHW), Certified Production Technician (CPT), and Barber Technician (BT).

Students who are not selected to participate in the grant will still benefit from the opportunity to enroll in the following new programs, pending final ICCB approval:

### **Patient Care Technician (PCT)**

The PCT program will be offered during the Spring 2020 Semester and will provide stackable credentials in EKG, Basic Nursing Assistant Training Program (BNATP), and Phlebotomy. The program is a basic certificate which allows completion in one semester. According to Indeed.com, the average national salary of jobs for PCT is \$36,000.00 with a high confidence ranking based on over 250 sources. The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data shows job outlooks for PCTs and related careers will increase by 23% over the next 10 years.

**Barber Technician (BT)**

The Barber Technician program will not be in place until the Fall 2020 Semester. Barber Technician is a 12-month program leading to professional certification. According to BLS data, the average salary for a Barber in Illinois is \$42,930, or \$20.64 per hour with an increase in demand of 9% by 2026. In the Southland area, there are currently 286 new job openings for barbers. The Barber Technician program at SSC will be offering programming and support at a fraction of the cost to attend area proprietary institutions.

For more information about these programs, please call (708) 596-2000, ext. 2413 or email [workforceequity@ssc.edu](mailto:workforceequity@ssc.edu).

Open registration for the Spring 2020 Semester begins Monday, October 21, 2019. For more information, please visit [www.ssc.edu](http://www.ssc.edu) or contact the Admissions Office at (708) 210-5718. Para Información En Español Llame: (708) 210-5740. SSC is located at 15800 South State Street, South Holland, Illinois. The Oak Forest Center is located at 16333 South Kilbourn Avenue, Oak Forest, Illinois.

*SSC is a community college located in South Holland, Illinois serving 21 communities including parts of the Chicago Southland and northwest Indiana. SSC provides a variety of support services and leadership opportunities to its students in addition to a wide range of academic program options. For more information about SSC, please visit [www.ssc.edu](http://www.ssc.edu).*

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