

Press Release



Media Contact: Benton Smith
Central Carolina Community College
(919) 718-7265
bsmith@cccc.edu

Media Contact: Carole Woodward
N.C. Telecommunications Industry Association
(919) 708-7464
woodward@nctia.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

N.C. School of Telecommunications Moves to High-Tech Campus

Facility offers state-of-the-art educational opportunities; supports workforce development

SANFORD, N.C., April 13, 2005 – The North Carolina School of Telecommunications (NCST), a division of Central Carolina Community College, is offering classes at its new campus in the Lee County Industrial Park. The new facility offers enhanced educational opportunities for full-time curriculum students, as well as continuing education and specialized training for employees of telecommunications companies throughout the eastern United States.

At a ribbon-cutting and open-house that took place today at the school, educators joined legislators and business and community leaders in praising the new facility.

“The NCST is a premier resource for business, industry and the community,” said Dr. Matt Garrett, president of Central Carolina Community College. “The spacious new facility, with its innovative design and cutting-edge equipment, exemplifies our long-term commitment to the telecom industry. Offering diploma and certificate programs to support the latest telephony technology, the unique instructional program facilitates workforce development and is a catalyst for economic growth.”

The instructional program grew from a partnership with the North Carolina Telecommunications Industry Association (NCTIA), which provides monetary resources and other support for the telecom school.

“The N.C. School of Telecommunications plays a vital role in our state’s economy and positioning North Carolina as a leader in telecommunications technology,” said Steve Parrott, state executive for Sprint and president of NCTIA. “Its curriculum content provides students with hands-on training in real-world settings. Its instructional

quality ensures a highly skilled professional workforce is available for the communications and technology sectors in North Carolina and across the Southeast.”

The spacious new 20,000-square foot structure includes eight traditional classrooms and a switch classroom, along with faculty and administrative offices, general purpose meeting rooms and a conference room.

Dedicated instructional spaces include two classrooms for BICSI-licensed (Building Industry Consulting Service International) training, along with labs for Nortel DMS switching equipment and Cisco routers. A general-use computer lab is also included.

In addition to the interior instructional spaces, the site incorporates outdoor training facilities that include a manhole, telephone pole field, station installation practice walls, and miles of buried and aerial telephone cable.

“We’re very excited about our new location,” said Janet Gresham, NCST director. “Our new, state-of-the-art training facility provides a remarkable setting in which to learn and teach with materials and equipment that are constantly being updated to industry standards.”

Carole Woodward, NCTIA executive director, said her organization is proud to continue its partnership with NCST. “The school is a benchmark for telecom training. Its offerings and programs are among the components affecting our industry’s success in North Carolina and elsewhere.”

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