

New Online GCDF Training Program Approved

For those seeking the Global Career Development Facilitator (GCDF) credential, there is a new opportunity to meet the training requirement for certification through an online program. Many adult students have found that online programming allows them to pursue professional development while continuing to meet their work and family responsibilities.

The School of Professional and Continuing Studies at Thomas Edison State College, a national leader in providing distance learning programs for adults, recently launched its “Workforce Career Coach Facilitator” professional certificate, a 26-week online program intended for workforce, career, human resources, out-placement and education professionals who want to enhance their opportunities for personal career advancement by improving the skills needed to help others find jobs and careers. The certificate is approved by the Center for Credentialing & Education (CCE) to satisfy the training requirement for earning the international (GCDF) credential.

“Our new Workforce Career Coach Facilitator certificate is designed to help professionals in a wide range of industries gain the skills needed to work with diverse populations who need assistance in making career decisions,” said Dr. David M. Grossman, vice provost and dean of the School of Professional and Continuing Studies. “Successful completion of this certificate satisfies the training requirement for earning the international GCDF credential, a marketable credential recognized throughout the world for defining skills within the workforce development field.”

The online course was developed by Suzanne Guibert and Harvey Schmelter-Davis. Collectively, Guibert and Schmelter-Davis have over 60 years of workforce and career development field experience and have taught this curriculum onsite throughout the country for many years. They will mentor students in the online program. Thomas Edison State College currently enrolls 13,000+ adult students, many of whom earn college degrees through distance learning. For many, online learning is new and the College provides technical as well as mentor support.

The 120-hour certificate is the first completely online program in the country to deliver workforce career coach training in all the competencies needed to be proficient as a workforce development professional. Successful completion of this training will develop the following core competencies:

- Workforce Development History and Policy – understanding workforce development in relation to helping customers make career decisions and seek employment.

- Helping Skills – gaining proficiency in the basic career facilitating process while including productive interpersonal relationships.
- Labor Market Information and Resources - understanding labor market and occupational information and trends. Be able to use current resources.
- Assessment - comprehending and use both formal and informal career development assessments with emphasis on relating appropriate career development assessments to the population served.
- Diverse Populations - recognizing special needs of various groups and adapt services to meet their needs.
- Ethical and Legal Issues - following GCDF Code of Ethics and know current legislative regulations.
- Career Development Models - understanding career development theories, models and techniques as they apply to lifelong development, gender, age and ethnic background.
- Employability Skills - knowing job search strategies and placement techniques.
- Training Peers and Clients – learning to prepare and develop training materials
- Program Management/Implementation – implementing programs and working in collaborative relationships.
- Promotion and Public Relations - marketing and promoting career development programs.
- Technology - comprehending and using career development computer applications.
- Consultation - accepting suggestions for performance improvement.

A 20-hour fieldwork assignment is also required to complete the certificate. Registration is open and students can begin any time throughout the year. The registration fee is \$1,500 and includes all course materials. To register or for more information, visit www.tesc.edu/spcs, or contact the college at (609) 777-5642, ext. 2211 or 2217 or spcs@tesc.edu.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL AND CONTINUING STUDIES

The School of Professional and Continuing Studies at Thomas Edison State College offers a broad array of high-quality professional certificates, seminars, workshops and other noncredit programs specifically designed for the working adult to develop and enhance knowledge, skills and competencies in the workplace. In addition to programs available for individual enrollment, the School works with corporations, government agencies and nonprofit organizations to develop customized professional development programs. Further information about the School of Professional and Continuing Studies may be obtained via e-mail at spcs@tesc.edu or by visiting the College Web site at www.tesc.edu/spcs.

ABOUT THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

Thomas Edison State College provides flexible, high-quality, collegiate learning opportunities for self-directed adults. One of New Jersey's 12 senior public institutions of higher education, the College offers associate, baccalaureate and master's degrees in more than 100 areas of study. Students earn degrees through a wide variety of rigorous and high-quality academic methods that can be customized to meet their individual needs. Identified by *Forbes* magazine as one of the top 20 colleges and universities in the nation in the use of technology to create learning opportunities for adults, Thomas Edison State College is a national leader in the assessment of adult learning and a pioneer in the use of educational technologies. The College is home to The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy. The New Jersey State Library is an affiliate of Thomas Edison State College. Further information about admission to the College may be obtained by calling (888) 442-8372, via e-mail at info@tesc.edu or by visiting the College Web site at www.tesc.edu.

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