

HAMPTON VA

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Goodwill, Thomas Nelson Community College join forces to offer trades classes

May 14, 2014 – Hampton City Council approved a permit Wednesday allowing Thomas Nelson Community College and Goodwill Industries to open a new trades training program at 1911 Saville Row.

The Workforce Development program will include classes for heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC); residential electrician; facilities maintenance technician; weatherization technician; and energy auditor. The focus is on adults – primarily the unemployed, underemployed and veterans - seeking to earn certification for quick employment.

Classes - expected to start later this year after the Goodwill building is reconfigured - will be available during the day and evening, and will be small, usually with no more than 12 students. Graduates will be eligible for national industry credentials designed to lead to quick employment. Thomas Nelson and other agencies will work to help them find jobs.

“The city is very excited by the prospect of these two organizations working together to provide new training opportunities. This program can only add to the city’s already talented workforce,” said Hampton Mayor George Wallace.

“In the past two years, weatherization, HVAC, and electrician training have enrolled more than 250 men and women seeking employment in these reliable career fields,” said Dr. Carmen Burrows, associate vice-president of workforce training at Thomas Nelson.

“This is a meaningful partnership for the community, bringing together the training and workforce development expertise of Thomas Nelson and Goodwill. Individuals will find success through this high quality, relevant training,” said Mike Winckler, vice president of workforce development at Goodwill.

Goodwill Industries is part of a national network of community-based organizations that serve people through education, training and job placement services. Goodwill pays for its work by collecting donated clothing, household items, computers and other equipment and selling those items in retail stores and other outlets.

Thomas Nelson Community College is a two-year state college that primarily serves Hampton, Newport News, Poquoson, Williamsburg, James City County and York County. Thomas Nelson

Workforce Development provides workforce programs, customized training and career solutions to organizations and individuals on the Virginia Peninsula.

For more information about the new training program or Thomas Nelson Workforce Development programs, call 757-825-2937 or visit www.tncc.edu/workforce. For more information about Goodwill Industries, go to www.goodwillvirginia.org

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