



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
20301 MAIL SERVICE CENTER • RALEIGH, NC 27699-0301

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**Contact: Chrissy Pearson**  
**Cell: (919) 215-4669**  
**Office: (919) 733-0767**

## **Gov. Perdue Launches “12 in 6” Worker Training Initiative**

*As part of JobsNOW, Community Colleges to offer 12 career paths taking less than 6 months*

**RALEIGH** - Gov. Bev Perdue today launched “12 in 6”, a workforce development initiative designed to benefit North Carolinians who have lost their jobs due to recent layoffs and plant closures or other job seekers. The initiative will create community college programs in 12 careers, each requiring less than six months to complete. The N.C. Community College System and the N.C. Department of Commerce are collaborating on the program as part of Gov. Perdue’s larger JobsNOW initiative, which focuses on job creation and economic development.

The new training programs will be available at all 58 community colleges by the end of September. The state’s 24 [workforce boards](#), [JobLink Career Centers](#), and Employment Security Commission offices will connect job seekers with the training programs and employment opportunities.

“Jobs now in North Carolina – that’s the goal. We know that people who have lost their jobs need to get back in the workforce as quickly as possible,” said Gov. Bev Perdue. “This rapid training initiative provides them with a clear path to success in new, sustainable careers.”

“This initiative is another strong example of how, working together, state agencies can leverage resources and federal recovery funding to serve our citizens,” she added.

The 12 career areas were selected based on current and/or anticipated market demand: Nursing Assistant, Phlebotomy, Medical Coding, Office/Clerical Support, Masonry/Tile Cutting, Plumbing, Carpentry, Welding, Food Service, Autobody Repair, Manufacturing/Materials, and HVAC/Industrial Maintenance. Others may be added later.

“The road to recovery runs through North Carolina’s community colleges,” said Dr. Scott Ralls, president of the N.C. Community College System. “It makes perfect sense for the community colleges to work closely with the Governor in pushing her goal of getting North Carolinians back

to work. The JobsNOW initiative will help our state's workers gain employment now and as the recovery begins to gain momentum."

"North Carolina is well-known for having an outstanding workforce," said Keith Crisco, secretary of the N.C. Department of Commerce. "This program is a great way to help those who have lost their jobs due to the economic downturn and who are eager to get back to work quickly, but who may need to enhance their skills or plan to pursue a new career."

Commerce's Workforce Development Division has allocated \$13.4 million in federal recovery funds to the program and on Friday, April 17 the N.C. State Board of Community Colleges is expected to approve the funds for the "12 in 6" initiative that will go to each of the system's community colleges. Funding is expected to be distributed to campuses on July 1.

Funds will be used to develop courses and materials, provide student services and assist with identifying jobs and placing new trainees in them.