

Truck Driving Training now offered by Glen Oaks Community College

CENTREVILLE---Glen Oaks Community College, in cooperation with International Trucking School, Inc., will begin offering Truck Driver Certificate classes beginning with the Winter 2010 Semester. First classes for the 31 credit hour Truck Driver Certificate, including three 5-week driver training classes (one follows the other for 15 weeks total), will begin in January 2010.

Dr. Ana Gaillat, Dean of the College, said the new certificate provides students with commercial driver training in both theoretical and practical operation of vehicles on a driving range and local highway driving. Students will acquire knowledge on areas related and applicable to the trucking industry, including basic computer skills, small business entrepreneurship and health and wellness. Upon completion of the program, graduates will receive a Certificate of Completion from the College and be qualified for a Class A Commercial Drivers License (CDL-A).

In addition to the regular requirements for admission to Glen Oaks Community College, students applying for the Truck Driver Certificate program must be at least 18 years of age, have a valid driver's license, have an acceptable driving record to obtain a Training Instruction Permit (TIP) from the Secretary of State, complete and pass the Department of Transportation physical examination and drug screening, and meet the requirements of the Motor Carrier Federal Safety Regulations and Qualifications of Drivers.

The International Trucking School, Inc. has been in existence since 1990 and is fully licensed by the State of Michigan. ITS conducts training with several other Michigan community colleges, including Macomb Community College, Monroe County Community College and Schoolcraft Community College.

Students in the new truck driver training program at Glen Oaks Community College may be funded, for those who qualify, by MichiganWorks! The training also meets military veteran education program and financial aid requirements.

Dr. Gaillat said the program can be completed in two semesters and many of the courses, with the exception of the ITS driver portion, may be completed online. "Emphasis is put on a business entrepreneur course because modern truckers are really small-business people. An introduction to computers and software is required because today's drivers must use computers in much of their work. An industrial communications course was added since reports and plans must be completed. A wellness/lifestyle class will help drivers who must make healthy decisions about exercise and food when spending so much of their time behind the wheel and on the road," said Dr. Gaillat. The 31 credit certificate counts toward completion of the Associate of Applied Science in Technology (AAST) degree, a 62 credit program.

Those interested in learning more about the program or beginning the enrollment process may contact Student Services at Glen Oaks Community College at (269) 294-4300, the local MichiganWorks! office or info@internationaltruckingschool.net.