

## SPCC Adds Emergency Medical Science Degree Program

South Piedmont Community College is adding an Emergency Medical Science Bridge program this fall that will allow professional Emergency Medical Technicians and paramedics to get credit for their real-world experience in earning an associate degree. The associate degree will then allow them to continue their education or perhaps seek a better-paying job.

"Both Union and Anson (counties) are looking for EMS professionals with degrees," said Stuart Wasilowski, SPCC's vice president of the School of Applied Science and Technology.

The program allows the college to count specific work experience toward classroom hours. "In effect, they're getting credit for the knowledge base and competencies that they already have," Wasilowski said. "What typically happens, people come here to get EMT, they stay on and get EMT-Paramedic. That's 1,300 hours. These folks were at a dead end in terms of (further) education. This opens a pathway back to the college to get their degree, and go on for a bachelor's degree."

To qualify for the program, a student would have to provide proof of certification in Basic Trauma Life Support (BTLS or PHTLS), Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS); proof of current Health Provider CPR certification; and written proof of 3,000 paid hours as a paramedic.

"In order to make sure we were awarding credit appropriately, we did a lot of research," said Alice Bradley, associate dean of Allied Health.

The curriculum is set up for the program to be completed in two semesters, but Bradley said some people might be able to complete it in one. The credit earned for certifications and real-world experience will account for many of a student's prerequisites, she said, but "they will also have general studies. Nine times out of 10, these folks aren't going to (already) have the general studies," she said.

Students who successfully complete the program will earn an associate in applied science degree in Emergency Medical Science.

For information about the program, contact Bradley at 704-290-5832 or [abradley@spcc.edu](mailto:abradley@spcc.edu) or EMS Coordinator Robby Smith at 704-290-5817 or [rsmith@spcc.edu](mailto:rsmith@spcc.edu).

## Pressure Canner Lid Testing

It is that time of year again. Gardens are coming off and people are pulling out their canners to put up vegetables. Pressure canning is a must for all low acid foods. This includes all vegetables, meats, poultry, seafood and soups or a combination of any of these items.

Make sure your steam dial gauge is correct. The Anson Cooperative Extension Center is offering Pressure Canner Lid testing for steam dial gauges do not require testing.

The Extension Center will offer free testing of canner lids the week of June 11-15. Simply bring your canner lid to the Extension Center at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro anytime during that week and drop it off.

Gauges will be checked, and you will receive a call when it is ready to be picked up. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. Canning publications and information are also available.

Before you get too far into your canning season have your dial gauge checked. This is a free service to the public. For questions and information, contact Janine Rywak, County Extension Director at 704-694-2915.

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**Requirements:** Associate Degree required. Extensive requirements can be found on the job description located on the SPCC website at [www.spcc.edu](http://www.spcc.edu).

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled, with the first consideration given to those who turn in application packets by June 15, 2012. An application, job description and other requirements may be found at [www.spcc.edu](http://www.spcc.edu) or contact us at:

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