

# THE INSIDE STORY



## **CCAC Offering Free Tuition to Dislocated Workers**

In response to the economic downturn, in January 2009, Allegheny County Executive Dan Onorato and Community College of Allegheny County introduced its own stimulus package for Western Pennsylvania, offering free tuition for laid-off workers and transition programs for employers forced to downsize.

The Career Transition Center for Dislocated Workers extended a waiver of tuition and fees to unemployed individuals when they presented a letter from their employers verifying that the unemployment was due to company layoffs and not employee choice or fault. Dislocated workers could then receive free tuition and fees in one of five high-priority, high-demand certificate and degree programs within the first year after becoming unemployed.

Credit programs included Information Technology Support at Boyce campus, Basic Electronics at North campus and Phlebotomy at South campus. Non-credit certificate programs included Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training at Allegheny campus and Certified Nurse Aide training. Since the launch, five additional programs have been included and 200 people have enrolled in the program. Eight students graduated in May from the Nurse Aide program, one of the shortest programs, and five already have jobs with health care facilities.

*Contact: David Hoovler 412-237-3035 [dhoovler@ccac.edu](mailto:dhoovler@ccac.edu)*