

BC3 only site other than Pittsburgh to offer EIC worksite safety course

January 18, 2017

(Butler, PA) For the first time, Butler County Community College will host a four-hour course intended to introduce entry-level natural gas and oil industry employees to worksite safety, standardized training that replaces multiple classes at multiple sites and an alternative to an identical workshop offered only in downtown Pittsburgh.

“The industry has been in a slight downturn, but it is picking up,” says Anna Marie Mumich, program director at the Energy Innovation Center, Pittsburgh, which with BC3 is offering the course. “I know that people are starting to open up new wells all over the place.”

More than 19,600 workers were directly employed in natural gas development in Pennsylvania as of June, the state Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics reported in December.

The Energy Safety Passport course “is a general, basic safety orientation for all the producers in the area in oil and gas,” says Maria Chvala, BC3 coordinator of industrial safety training.

Thirty seats are still open for the Jan. 31 class, scheduled for noon to 4 p.m. at the Public Safety Training Facility on BC3’s main campus. The course will be offered monthly throughout 2017. Additional BC3 dates are Feb. 28, March 28, April 25, May 30, June 27, July 25, Aug. 29, Sept. 26, Oct. 31, Nov. 28 and Dec. 19.

Participants in the training program for the Appalachian Basin – which encompasses parts of New York, Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania – will receive a certificate of course completion and wallet card.

Chevron Corp., Shell, Consol Energy and EQT Corp. helped design the training to serve as the uniform annual Appalachian Basin safety and environmental awareness course for all regional producers, service partners, contractors and subcontractors, Mumich says.

Material includes employer and employee rights and responsibilities, personal safety, protective equipment, processes and procedures for particular sites, risk and hazard assessment, chemical hazards and mobile equipment/vehicle safety.

“It is important,” Mumich says, “that everyone has the same foundational skills. It also saves money for the subcontractors because they would not have to have their individuals spending multiple days at multiple trainings, because that is money wasted. They are off the job site and they have to pay them.”

The \$125 class combines the foundational Health, Safety and Environment curriculum with best-in-class blended learning rubrics to provide a course unlike any other offered, Mumich says. The

course is based on the best available safety practices in the industry and region and the unique delivery is designed to increase comprehension and retention effectiveness in the diverse learning, reading and language skills commonly found in workers in the Appalachian Basin.

Participants who cancel must do so at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled start of the class in order to receive a credit toward rescheduling. The course may be canceled if the minimum enrollment is not met. In that event, registrants will be notified via email 48 hours prior to the scheduled time.

For more information, contact BC3's Chvala (724) 287-8711 Extension 8355 or email Maria.Chvala@bc3.edu.