



### Frequently Asked Questions: Workforce Credential Grant Program

*The Virginia General Assembly approved a new grant program in 2016 to reduce the student cost of specific Workforce Credential training programs by two-thirds so that more people can access this type of training and the jobs that stem from it.*

#### **Q: What is a workforce or industry credential?**

**A:** Workforce Credential" and "Industry Credential" are terms used to describe an array of qualifications that you can earn to prepare yourself for a wide variety of careers.

These credentials include **licenses, registrations, and industry-recognized, third-party certifications**. Depending on the career pathway involved, the organization granting the credential might be a state agency, an industry or trade group, or other entity. Industry-recognized credentials are sometimes required or recommended for people applying for certain jobs. Having the right credential can give you a significant advantage during the hiring process.

#### **Q: Which workforce training programs are included in the new state grants program?**

**A:** Currently, four SVHEC workforce training programs have been approved for inclusion in the Workforce Credential Grant Program: Industrial Maintenance/Mechatronics, IT Academy, Welding@SVHEC, and Work Ready Foundations.

#### **Q: How will the Workforce Credential Grant affect my cost to enroll in an SVHEC Workforce Training Program?**

**A:** If you enroll in one of the Workforce Credential training programs covered by the new grants, **you would pay only one-third (1/3) of the normal cost**. It's important to remember that program costs vary widely, depending on the length and complexity of the training.

Note: the maximum value of each grant is \$3,000. So, for example, if you enroll in, and successfully complete, a grant-eligible program that normally costs \$4,500, you will pay \$1,500 and the Workforce Credential Grant will cover the remaining \$3,000 costs.

#### **Q: How many students will be able to sign up for the new grants program?**

**A:** The General Assembly budgeted enough money to allow approximately 10,000 eligible students to receive Workforce Credentials Grants for training costs during the two-year period beginning July 2016.

**Q: How long does it take to complete Workforce Credential training programs?**

**A:** All SVHEC Workforce Training programs are short-term, hands-on training that can be completed in significantly less time than a traditional degree. The length of each program varies according to the needs of industry. Some training will take several months, while others can be completed in weeks.

**Q: When is training available?**

**A:** Training times and length of training differ by program. Please speak with a program coordinator for specific information.

**Q: Will I receive college credit for workforce training?**

**A:** In general, SVHEC Workforce Training programs are non-credit and do not lead to degrees. Having said that, some SVHEC training programs allow students to co-enroll with a community college partner. This gives students a credit and a non-credit option for completing training. Please speak with your program's coordinator to find out if your program qualifies for co-enrollment.

