

Nanotechnology Technician Training in Virginia and North Carolina

Danville Community College (DCC) and Luna Innovations Inc., a nanotechnology research and manufacturing company, have entered into a partnership to provide nanotechnology technician training to Southside Virginia residents through a curriculum that will not only provide students with technical skills, but will include hands-on experience in using scientific instruments. The new nanotechnology track will be part of the College's advanced manufacturing technology program, which currently offers Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degrees in manufacturing engineering technology and polymer manufacturing technology, degree tracks developed under prior funding from NSF. The latest award will enable DCC students to earn AAS degrees in the nanotechnology technician track.

Through collaboration between DCC and the University of Virginia, graduates from DCC's nanotech program will have the option to pursue advanced degrees in the state university system. DCC is partnering further with 21 nanotechnology companies throughout Virginia and the North Carolina Research Triangle Park area. Another significant project partner is the Danville Science Center, which will develop summer nanotechnology workshops for secondary school teachers to help extend the nanotechnology program's reach.

Patents or other steps toward commercialization:

Contributing Agency: NSF