

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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German Language and Culture Foundation of Charlotte launches “Study and Work Abroad – Experience the German Workforce as an Apprentice!” program at CPCC

Initiative to encourage more students to study abroad as apprentices, CPCC student to receive scholarship

The German Language and Culture Foundation (GLCF) has agreed to award at least one Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC) student a \$4,700 scholarship to its “Study and Work Abroad – Experience the German Workplace as an Apprentice!” program.

Less than five percent of CPCC students study abroad as a technician and/or engineer. Of those, only one percent are apprentices. “Study and Work Abroad – Experience the German Workplace as an Apprentice!” strives to increase this number by encouraging more students, interested in studying a science, technology, engineering or math (STEM) career, to study abroad as an apprentice.

“Study and Work Abroad – Experience the German Workplace as an Apprentice!” is a three-month program that is comprised of one month of language study and two months of on-the-job training. To qualify, a participant must have taken the German language for at least one semester, be between 18 and 25 years of age, and be enrolled in a college curriculum program that is recognized in Germany, such as CPCC’s Mechatronics program. Once accepted, the student will receive college credit for their time in Germany, while remaining a permanent employee of the U.S.-based company where they serve as an apprentice and earn a regular paycheck.

“This is an outstanding opportunity for apprentices in the STEM field to gain international experience in their field of study,” said Brigitte Hartenstein, president of the GLCF and CFO, STEAG Energy Services LLC. “Our hope is that the program will continue to grow in the years ahead as more and more students hear testimonials from past participants on how much the program helped them grow personally and professionally.”

The German Language and Culture Program received a grant from the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs to support this program. GLCF decided to launch the program at CPCC because of the college’s robust German language program and established [apprenticeship](#) partnerships with Siemens, Bosch Rexroth, Blum, Pfaff Mold, Daetwyler and others. Also important to the decision was the existing cooperation of CPCC and IHK Karlsruhe, a German chamber of industry and commerce that recognizes multiple CPCC degree programs.

As the program gains momentum, GLCF plans to extend a “Study and Work Abroad – Experience the German Workplace as an Apprentice!” scholarship to a student enrolled at Cleveland Community College and Gaston Community College as well.

The scholarship's funding may be used to cover the costs of the program's tuition, books, travel expenses and accommodations.

To learn more about the "Study and Work Abroad – Experience the German Workplace as an Apprentice!" program, visit www.cpcc.edu/workplacelearning. To learn more about CPCC's study abroad programs, visit www.cpcc.edu/academics/global-learning. To learn more about the German Language and Culture Foundation and its projects, please visit www.germanfoundation.com.

Central Piedmont Community College is one of the largest community colleges in the Carolinas, offering nearly 300 degree, diploma and certification programs, customized corporate training, market-focused continuing education, and special interest classes. CPCC is academically, financially and geographically accessible to all citizens of Mecklenburg County. CPCC responds to the workforce and technology needs of local employers and job seekers through innovative educational and training strategies. Established in 1963, CPCC has provided more than 50 years of service to Mecklenburg County residents, business and industry. For more information, see www.cpcc.edu.