

# Forsyth Tech to open lab seven days a week to meet students' needs



Submitted Photos

Forsyth Tech is expanding hours for its multidisciplinary state-of-the-art Science Skills Lab to seven days a week to provide more flexibility to students with busy schedules.

### SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Beginning Jan. 7, 2016, the college's state-of-the-art Science Skills Lab (SSL) will extend its hours of operation to between nine and 14 hours a day, seven days a week, with instructors on hand to assist students whenever the lab is open.

The lab is the first of its kind in the country to operate on such a broad scale in higher education, including two and four-year schools, according to Michael Ayers, Dean of the Math, Science and Technologies Division.

The SSL, which first opened in the fall of 2013, was funded by a \$15 million Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant made to Forsyth Tech by the U.S. Department of Labor. Since then, enrollment has increased each semester. More than 600 students, including many from surrounding counties and other schools, have enrolled in the lab, which allows students to complete projects at their convenience.

The lab's flexible hours and multidisciplinary offerings have already proven so popular that Forsyth Tech has decided to continue funding the lab's expanded schedule after the TAACCCT grant ends next year.

In addition to giving students the flexibility to schedule a science lab around their personal and work schedules, students save money too; course materials related to the lab are available online and free of charge. Students are also allowed to complete more than one lab in a day,

saving them time and money in transportation costs.

"Our students are often juggling one or two jobs and family commitments while attending Forsyth Tech," said Ayers. "Many of them have told us they would not be able to take science classes with labs were it not for the flexibility they have with the SSL. This feedback is what led us to the decision to expand the lab's accessibility for our students."

Local employers like it, too, because employees can upgrade their skills, further their education and take advantage of professional development opportunities after their workday ends and sometimes during work hours.

"This is the future for science labs," Ayers said. "Flexibility and accessibility are the names of the

game going forward when it comes to training and educating our growing bioscience workforce."

Starting in January 2016, the SSL will be open according to the following schedule: Monday and Tuesday, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Wednesday, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Thursday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Forsyth Tech's spring semester begins on Thursday, Jan. 7, 2016. Students interested in taking bioscience classes and labs are encouraged to apply to the college as soon as possible. The SSL is located in the Oak Grove Center, Room 2539, on the college's Main Campus, 2100 Silas Creek Parkway. For more information, contact Tami Sappenfield at 336.734.7677 or tsappenfield@forsythtech.edu.



With lab instructors available whenever the Science Skills Lab is open, students have the flexibility to work on individual or group projects at their convenience, knowing they can call on a faculty member anytime for help.

## Heart association forming young pro group

The American Heart Association is looking for corporate business professionals between the ages 25-35 who are interested in joining the American Heart Association's new Emerging Leaders Group.

The Emerging Leaders Group seeks to connect with Triad-wide business professionals who are interested in social and professional networking, leadership opportunities, mentorship, philanthropic efforts and community involvement.

Local Greensboro resident Brittney Carroll is the inaugural Chair of the American Heart Association's 2015-2016 Emerging Leaders Group.

An Emerging Leaders Summit, sponsored by Dixon Hughes Goodman, will be held in the spring of 2016.

To get involved, contact LeKeshia Franklin (336)542-4832 or email LeKeshia.Franklin@heart.org.

**\$250,000**  
MudPies  
NORTHWEST CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

**WE NEED COMMUNITY INVESTORS TO REACH OUR GOAL!**

\$200,000  
\$100,000  
\$150,000  
\$65,000  
\$50,000

GIVE A CHILD

**MudPies**  
NORTHWEST CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

NWDC is a 501(c)3-non-profit organization  
**mudpiesNC.org**  
Contact [events@nwcdc.org](mailto:events@nwcdc.org)  
336.721.1215