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Bladen Community College Expands Truck Driver Training Program Through Partnership with The Forward Fund

DUBLIN, N.C. — Bladen Community College (BCC) is proud to announce the expansion of its Truck Driver Training Program with the addition of a new truck and trailer to its fleet and a new partnership with The Forward Fund, a North Carolina-based nonprofit organization dedicated to helping students access high-demand careers through affordable training opportunities.

This expansion strengthens BCC's commitment to providing short-term, high-impact training programs that prepare students for in-demand, high-wage careers. The addition of the new truck and trailer will allow the college to serve more students, reduce wait times, and enhance hands-on learning experiences.

Through its partnership with The Forward Fund, students enrolled in Bladen Community College's daytime Truck Driver Training Program can now access 0% interest loans, originated by The Forward Fund's partner, Ascent Funding, ranging from \$2,000 to \$10,000 to cover tuition, equipment, and living expenses while enrolled in the program. Loans can be deferred until borrowers earn at least \$45,000 annually, offering students flexibility as they transition into their new careers.

"The expansion of our Truck Driver Training Program represents our ongoing commitment to workforce development in Bladen County and beyond," said Dr. Amanda Lee, President of Bladen Community College. "Our partnership with The Forward Fund ensures that financial barriers do not stand in the way of motivated individuals who are ready to begin a rewarding career in transportation. This collaboration allows us to open doors for students who want to move quickly into a profession that changes lives and drives our economy forward."

The Forward Fund has already supported students across North Carolina, providing loans, in partnership with Ascent, for truck driver and electrical line worker training. The fund exemplifies the power of public-private partnerships to increase access to essential workforce training.

"We are excited to work with Bladen Community College to make truck driver training more accessible," said Meaghan Dennison, Founder and CEO of The Forward Fund. "By helping students cover the costs of training and living expenses, we're enabling them to focus on developing their skills and launching a successful, high-paying career."

[Ascent](#) is The Forward Fund's loan originator and master servicing partner. Ascent and The Forward Fund began their collaboration to provide easier access to these critical trade roles, with loan repayments tied to career and economic outcomes and cycled back into the Fund to "pay it forward" to future learners and, ultimately, advance economic mobility.

“We’re thrilled to partner with The Forward Fund to expand access to transportation careers by lowering financial barriers for students,” said Michele Shank, VP, Impact & Senior Counsel at Ascent Funding. “Programs like ours help students build meaningful careers in essential industries that move our communities, our economy, and our country forward.”

Bladen Community College’s Truck Driver Training Program provides comprehensive, hands-on instruction to prepare students for the Class A Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) exam. Graduates are in high demand, with many securing employment shortly after program completion.

For more information about enrolling in the Truck Driver Training Program or applying for financial assistance through The Forward Fund, please visit [BCC Partnership & Learning Page](#) or contact David Brisson at 910.879.5500 or dbrisson@bladenccl.edu.

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