

NEWS RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Eugene White
Northern Rivers Family of Services
518.701.4927 (mobile)
Eugene.White@northernrivers.org

Teresa Farrell
Hudson Valley Community College
518.629.8071
t.farrell1@hvcc.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Northern Rivers, Hudson Valley Community College and Capital Region Workforce Development Board Team Up to Offer “Learn Where You Earn” Workforce Training Program in Human Services

Hudson Valley Community College and the Capital Region Workforce Development Board have teamed up with social services organization Northern Rivers Family of Services to offer a new “Learn Where You Earn” program to give employees a chance to further their education right where they work.

Starting this summer, Hudson Valley will begin offering courses at Northern Rivers’ Albany location that are open to employees of the Northern Rivers Family of Services and its member agencies, Northeast Parent & Child Society and Parsons Child & Family Center. Designed to help employees facilitate their ongoing education, the partnership provides eligible employees with the opportunity to earn credentials in Human Services that could open the door to higher pay and promotional opportunities.

The 31-credit curriculum designed for Northern Rivers is also slated to become Hudson Valley Community College’s first education micro-credential. Recognized by SUNY, micro-credentials offer a way to verify that students have achieved specific skills and competencies within an area of study, in a shorter or more flexible timespan than a degree or certificate program. Micro-credentials can be “stacked” as students complete more courses. Hudson Valley’s Human Services micro-credential will include three tiers: Basic Direct Care Skills, a 10-credit credential broken into four courses; Intermediate Direct Care Skills, a 12-credit credential broken into four courses; and Advanced Direct Care Knowledge, a nine-credit credential broken into three courses. All courses may be counted toward an associate degree from Hudson Valley’s Human Services program.



Be bold. Be a Viking.



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Sponsored by the Capital Region Workforce Development Board, “Learn Where You Earn” program participants must be considered employees in good standing and have a high school diploma, GED/HSE, or some coursework toward an associate degree. Employees who already have an associate degree or higher are not eligible for the program. Tuition will be paid through tuition reimbursement and scholarships, with the employee being responsible for only \$50 of the total cost.

The first component of the program for Northern Rivers employees will be a course in Human Development and the Family, offered Mondays and Wednesdays, May 20-July 12, 2019. The course will focus on the study of the way in which society and family influence human growth and social functioning and the effects of both individual development and the interactions between individuals and families. Seventeen employees are registered to participate, with growth expected as the program continues.

“This partnership represents an important step forward for Northern Rivers and the entire human services profession,” said Northern Rivers Family of Services CEO William T. Gettman Jr. “By facilitating new human services education opportunities for our dedicated employees, everyone will benefit—the children and families we serve will receive even higher quality services, our staff will grow their careers in a field they feel passionate about, and our organization will grow stronger as a whole.”

“Hudson Valley is proud to partner with Northern Rivers and the Capital Region Workforce Development Board to bring this educational opportunity into the workplace,” said Hudson Valley Community College President Roger Ramsammy. “Partnerships like this are so valuable for all involved—they provide the opportunity for employers to train their workforce and for employees to advance their education. We hope that through our new micro-credential model and more partnerships like this one, we can help tailor higher education to fit the needs and goals of even more members of our Capital Region community.”

“The Capital Region Workforce Development Board, through our network of career centers in the City of Albany, Rensselaer County, and Schenectady County, is pleased to provide coordination and funding for this innovative educational training program between Northern Rivers and Hudson Valley Community College,” said Capital Region Workforce Development Board Executive Director Robert C. Wildermuth III. “By bringing the key partners of business and education together, this workforce development project ensures the continued industry-driven skill enhancement of individuals, showing investment in our human capital of the Capital Region.”

A press event announcing the program was held at Northern Rivers Family of Services, 60 Academy Road, Albany, on Wednesday, April 17, from 10 a.m. to noon.

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About Northern Rivers Family of Services

Founded where the Mohawk and Hudson meet, like the rivers that shaped our region, Northern Rivers Family of Services helps change lives by shaping the future of those we serve

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throughout the Capital Region and beyond. Comprised of parent company Northern Rivers and member agencies Northeast Parent & Child Society and Parsons Child & Family Center, we are a family of human services agencies who work together and are committed to helping children, adults, and families. Our quality of care, depth of programs, combined size, and passion for the mission make us a leading human services provider. Informed by our 190-year heritage, our 1,400-strong workforce provides services for 16,000 children, adults, and families throughout 35 counties in New York state. For more information, call 518.426.2600 or visit northernrivers.org.

About the Hudson Valley Community College

Founded in 1953, Hudson Valley Community College offers 85 degree and certificate programs in four schools: Business; Engineering and Industrial Technologies; Health Science; and Liberal Arts and Sciences; and administers the Capital District Educational Opportunity Center. One of 30 community colleges in the State University of New York system, it has an enrollment of nearly 11,250 students, and is known as a leader in distance learning initiatives and workforce training. Hudson Valley has more than 80,000 alumni.

About the Capital Region Workforce Development Board

The Capital Region Workforce Development Board (CRWDB) is the local business-driven organization that leads the strategic planning, policy creation, and oversight for the public workforce development system in Albany, Rensselaer, and Schenectady counties. The CRWDB provides a universally accessible workforce development system in the Capital Region that meets the needs of job seekers and businesses and supports economic growth. The Capital Region workforce development system provides enhanced employment opportunities for people and a quality workforce for businesses with strategies focused on promoting collaboration of economic development, education and training resources, evaluation/measurement of the systems performance and quality and, communication to the public of workforce development resources. The CRWDB oversees the operation of the three Career Centers in the City of Albany, Rensselaer County, and Schenectady County.