

A local partnership is creating education and jobs for Southside Virginians. Southside Virginia Community College and American Buildings Company (ABC), a division of Nucor, are working together to offer the training and skills necessary for many of the jobs offered by the company.

ABC, located in LaCrosse, Virginia, recently purchased additional software for use in the Computer Aided Drafting classes offered at the Lake Country Advanced Knowledge Center (LCAKC) in South Hill. The software, ***TeklaStructures***, is the same technology used by the local manufacturer in their Detailing Department.

The local plant has plans to expand their Detailing Department, leading to opportunities for those interested in learning a marketable skill. SVCC offers a program designed to train individuals interested in working as a detailer.

Greg Kuebrich, Business Services Manager, said recently “American Buildings Company and Nucor offer career opportunities not just jobs. We are one of the only companies I have seen where teammates have started out as a painter on the shop floor or a detailer in the office and worked their way up to become General Managers of a division. The opportunities are virtually endless for those with the right work ethic and initiative!”

Cindy A. Kirby, Human Resources and Payroll Coordinator for the Atlantic Division of ABC, said, “We are excited about the prospect of teaming with SVCC to help grow the skills of the workforce in Southside Virginia.”

She added, “In 2016 Nucor was ranked #26 on Forbes list of best employers in the Nation. American Buildings Company is proud to be a division of the Nucor Buildings Group and offer local employment opportunities to well qualified individuals.”

The company also hires welders from SVCC’s training program at the LCAKC. John Evans, Welding Instructor, notes that a number of his

students have gone to work at ABC and there are two in a current class who work and continue to come to school at night.

SVCC offers a Career Studies Certificate in these two programs. Both are designed to give the student the skills and knowledge they need to attain entry-level work at ABC or similar manufacturing industries.

Vincent Brown, CAD instructor, said "These programs allow a working adult to commit a few hours in the evenings and gain a new career in less than one year."

Learn more about the educational offerings at an Open House at the Lake Country Advanced Knowledge to be held December 14, 2016 from 4 – 6 p.m. Representatives from American Buildings Company and from SVCC's welding and CAD programs will be present to discuss the programs as well as current and future opportunities.