



Belmont Technical College Partners with AEP to Offer Utility Training Scholarships

*First- and Second-Year Students in Industrial Electronics and Powerplant Training Programs
Eligible for Aid through AEP's \$15 million "Partnership with Ohio"*

St. Clairsville, OH (October 7, 2010)—Belmont Technical College (BTC) will award \$25,000 in scholarship monies this year to eligible first- and second-year students in its Industrial Electronics and Powerplant training programs through a workforce development program sponsored by AEP Ohio, a unit of American Electric Power (NYSE: AEP).

AEP announced in August that through its "Partnership with Ohio" plan, the company had committed \$225,000 toward scholarships at nine two-year colleges in Ohio, including BTC, to be awarded to students seeking to upgrade their skills for utility industry careers.

Through the program, BTC will award five \$1,000 scholarships to first-year students and five \$2,000 awards to second-year students for the 2010-2011 year. First-year recipients will also receive the \$2,000 award in their second year, as long as they continue to meet the eligibility requirements.

"This is a very exciting opportunity for anyone who is considering, or who has already begun, training for this exciting career opportunity," said Jody Peeler, Associate Dean of Student Financial Aid. "Particularly in a tough job market, this is an excellent program that is making career training more affordable to help Ohio Valley residents build a better future."

BTC will mail scholarship applications to students currently enrolled in the Industrial Electronics and Power Plant Technology programs and will encourage new students to apply for the program. The deadline to submit an application through the scholarship program is November 29, 2010.

BTC's Power Plant Technology program, which is eligible for the scholarship dollars, is a collaborative program between Youngstown State University with classroom and lab space provided by BTC and AEP's Mitchell plant. The Power Plant program prepares graduates for basic operations in electric utility power plants and other related industries with coursework in electrical theory, electrical machinery and controls, power plant operations, boiler, turbine and generator operations, power plant instrumentation and pollution control equipment. Upon graduation from the program, students are prepared for entry-level employment in the utility industry as power plant operators.

"We are very pleased to partner with AEP in its very generous mission to help improve job opportunities for area residents," said Dr. Rebecca Kurtz, BTC Vice President for Learning and Student Success. "Today's high-tech electrical generation facilities require advanced skills, and BTC's program is uniquely

designed to provide the cutting-edge training required to pursue an advanced career in this exciting and rewarding field.”

AEP Ohio’s Partnership with Ohio Fund is a three-year \$15 million shareholder-funded program that provides additional help in the areas of health, hunger and housing to Ohio families.

For more information about the scholarship program at BTC, contact the Financial Aid Office at 740-695-8510 .

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