



RCCC seeking biotech leaders

By Justin Vick
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Rowan-Cabarrus Community College is hiring key management positions within its biotechnology department following the recent departure of Dr. Wendy Jin.

Jin served dual roles with RCCC. She was dean of the biotechnology program as well as head of the agricultural biotechnology degree program.

She was originally hired in July 2007 to serve as a program head, but took on the dean's role in November 2007 after the biotechnology department's inaugural dean, Ed Otto, left to work in the private sector.

Jin's vacancy was prompted by wanting to work closer to home, according to RCCC spokesman Jeff Lowrance.

Jin, who lived in Chapel Hill with a husband and daughters, commuted to Salisbury on some days and stayed overnight on others, Lowrance said.

Both vacancies were advertised on RCCC's Web site with a July 3 deadline.

"I think we are now looking at resumes we received and determining if we have a viable number of candidates from those," Lowrance said.

The biotechnology dean works directly under the vice president of academic affairs, and is responsible for developing the department's capital and operating budget, as well as providing day-to-day oversight, future planning and staff recruitment.

The dean is also expected to teach a limited number of classes.

The job vacancy also requires a willingness to relocate to Cabarrus or Rowan counties.

A study commissioned by the City of Kannapolis in 2006 projects 2,220 new biotech jobs will come to the region by the end of 2008 and more than 13,900 such jobs by 2032.

Within weeks of Otto's hire in September 2006, RCCC worked toward the development of two associate degree programs in biotechnology.

Those were launched in the spring 2008 semester.

RCCC recently announced the hiring of Martha Corjay as head of its general biotechnology degree program, designed to prepare students for research and development jobs.

Tim Foley, RCCC's vice president of academic programs, said Corjay brings a superb mix of biotechnology industry and teaching experience.

Corjay comes to RCCC after serving two years as a biology instructor at Bluegrass Community & Technical College in Lexington, Ky. Lowrance said the college is following discussion in the General Assembly in regard to funding for RCCC's building planned for the North Carolina Research Campus in Kannapolis.

The hope is to break ground on that this fall, he said.

For more information about RCCC's biotechnology programs and courses, go to www.rowancabarrus.edu/biotechnology/ or call 704-216-7200.

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