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Grad believes in value of certificate

From staff reports

MORGANTON — Western Piedmont Community College awards around 500 Career Readiness Certificates (CRC) every year at the Foothills Higher Education Center campus at 2128 S. Sterling St. Dale Hudson, a resident of Connelly Springs, obtained his CRC in May 2011.

Hudson, now employed by Flowers Bakery, said he included a copy of his certificate with every job application he completed. "I felt it gave me an advantage and I was proud I had completed it," he said. "It was the first certificate I have gotten since high school. I think the CRC helped me secure my current job," he continued. "I turned in my paperwork on Thursday and I was put to work the next Monday."

Hudson believes in the value of his Career Readiness Certificate. "My certificate not only opened doors for me, but after learning about this program, I was more aware of other classes offered at Western Piedmont Community College. I recently completed a technology class in order to further develop skills that will enhance my value to an employer." As a result of his education and persistence, Hudson has be-



Dale Hudson recently received his Career Readiness Certificate from WPCC.

come an employee of the college as a consultant and speaker in the pathways to commercial drivers license class.

"Western Piedmont is seeing a marked interest in the CRC from potential employers," said Faith

Schmitt, CRC administrator. "Suddenly, these applicants are coming in to apply for jobs with their CRCs in hand, saying, 'I have the necessary skill sets for this job, and here is a certificate to prove it.' The certificate gives an ad-

vantage for employment opportunities by showing employers the applicants are not only ready to work, but they are qualified to do so."

The National Career Readiness Certificate is an essential tool and marketable credential that offers individuals and employers the opportunity to certify essential workplace skills. Upon successful completion, individuals receive gold, silver or bronze certificates according to their skill level.

To learn more about Western Piedmont's Career Readiness Certificate, contact Schmitt at 448-6145 or at fschmitt@wpcc.edu.



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