

## COMMUNITY COLLEGE INITIATIVE: 2024 MEXICO PROGRAM

### **Community College Initiative Program**

The Program provides participants with a tailored, non-degree, academic program at a U.S. community college designed to build participants' technical skills in applied fields, enhance their leadership capabilities, and strengthen their English language proficiency. After completing the program, participants are expected to return home with their newly acquired and enhanced skills to foster a greater impact in their local communities and help them contribute to the economic development of their country.

### **CCI Program for Mexico**

Funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and implemented by our partner institution Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA), the CCI Program will support a cohort of Mexican participants to attend Mesa Community College to study **Automated Industrial Technology, with a focus on semiconductor technology**. The duration of the program is across the Spring 2024 academic semester with the participants arriving in early January and expected to depart in late May or early June.

This program is designed to be an intensive experience that prepares students for employment. The program will also provide participants with a variety of activities that build mutual understanding through immersion in the culture and day-to-day life in the United States. At the onset of the program, participants will have a pre-departure orientation conducted by the Embassy, with support and virtual involvement from ECA and NOVA, which will be followed by an in-person arrival orientation in Mesa, Arizona. In advance of the program, participants will be required to complete an online safety course.

### Academic Field of Study

The academic program in **Automated Industrial Technology** will prepare students to troubleshoot, maintain and repair a variety of automated electro-mechanical, product assembly and product distribution systems that use other methodologies to accomplish system management. Upon completion of the program, participants will have gained skills in defining, installing, and maintaining complex production systems. As part of the program, a course **on Industrial Technology for the Semiconductor Industry** will introduce semiconductor manufacturing concepts, processes, and hands-on application. Course topics will include electrical theory, circuits, schematics, hand tools, safety, clean room protocols, model-based problem solving, lean manufacturing, vacuum technology, and troubleshooting.

A prerequisite course of this academic program includes a fundamental mathematics course. The prerequisite is noted in the Eligibility Requirements section.

Upon successful completion of the program, participants will receive a certificate of completion from MCC (along with a transcript documenting the 16 credits earned) and will have the opportunity to take certification exams from the National Institutes of Metalworking Skills (NIMS). The awarding of the NIMS certificates is not guaranteed and will be based on the student's performance on the respective exam(s).

In addition to the academic component, and in order to provide a well-rounded, robust experience, the program will include leadership development, site visits, cultural exchange, hands-on experiences, and exposure to industry, among other aspects.

## CCI Eligibility Requirements

Everyone who meets the CCI eligibility criteria listed below is welcome to apply regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, geographic location, socio-economic status, disability (physical or mental), sexual orientation, or gender identity. Persons with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply. The CCI Program recruiters at Post should consider the following minimum requirements and note that additional non-eligibility criteria are outlined in the attached application form.

Competition for the CCI Program is merit-based and open to anyone who:

1. Is a citizen, national or permanent resident qualified to hold a valid passport issued by Mexico.
2. Is currently residing in the country.
3. Is 18 years or older by January 1, 2024.
4. Has successfully earned a secondary school diploma.
5. Has *not* completed the equivalent of two years toward a U.S. bachelor's degree or higher in the field of study the applicant is nominated to pursue.
6. Has demonstrated commitment to the study **Automated Industrial Technology and Semiconductor Technology** through some academic or professional experience. The program aims to identify participants with proven skills or interest and limited professional experience in the field of study offered.
7. Has solid working knowledge of English language as demonstrated by a minimum TOEFL score of 46 or higher or Duolingo score of 90 and higher.
8. Is able to demonstrate successful completion of a prerequisite math course ([Technical Math I](#)) or one deemed to be equivalent.
9. Has limited or no overseas study experience. Nominees with no prior overseas study or travel to the United States will be given placement priority.
10. Meets any customized requirements of the home country Embassy/Consulate or Commission.
11. Submits a complete original application.
12. Is able to receive a U.S. J-1 visa and meet the program conditions to maintain that status.
13. Is willing and mentally and physically able (with accommodations as required) to complete the program in its entirety, giving equal importance to all five pillars, including activities or travel that may be programmed on any day of the week, possibly including early morning or evening hours.
14. Is committed to returning to their home country after completion of the program and satisfying the J-visa two-year residency requirement.
15. Is able to begin the academic exchange program in the United States in January 2024.

## Financial Provisions of the Grant

- J-1 visa support.
- Round-trip travel from participant's home city to host institution in the United States.
- Tuition and mandatory college fees.
- Housing and meals.
- Small allowance for books, materials, and incidental expenses.
- Limited Accident and Sickness coverage that is J-visa compliant.
- A variety of personal and professional development activities.

## Application Forms and Due Dates

The deadline for the submission of nominations and complete applications is **August 21, 2023**.

The required medical form and passport data page are due on **September 13, 2023**.