



SKILLS FROM PAGE 3

Job recruiters from electrical companies such as San Patricio Electrical and City of Robstown Utilities were also welcomed to watch with family members to support the students.

"I am very excited for Gabriel," said NEC employee and mother of one of the students, Vicky Garcia, when exclaiming her enthusiasm for her son, Gabriel Garcia. "He was interested in this program since he had learned electrical stuff from his dad, and with me working at NEC for 15 years, so he was excited to try the program."

Del Mar aligned with NEC to develop the program that can fully train students to be prepared as an electrical lineworker. The field has been seeing a decrease of employment opportunities in the Nueces area.

"There were five students at the beginning of the program; not everyone can do it," said Michelle Avalos, Del Mar's director of the Electrical Lineworker Program. "It's not just strength, but you have to have that endurance to do what they're doing."

The program encourages the students

to not only be skilled as an electrical lineworker, but to help further their career. The electrical companies interviewed the students in a "mock interview," so the students can be more prepared with what they need to accomplish when the program is over. These companies are also the judges at the event that evaluated how efficiently the four students can complete the tasks of pole top rescue, personal protection grounding and insulator or cross arm change.

"Nerves were there a little bit," said Landeros, one of the students in the program, "but at the end of the day, just treat it like no one was there." Landeros completed the pole top rescue with the fastest time at one minute and eleven seconds.

"People need to be open to the challenges that comes with it, since it is very intense and nothing is easy, but it's very rewarding at the end," Landeros said he would tell students considering the program.

For more information about the program, and how to register for the next cohort session, contact Avalos at aavalos4@delmar.edu.

LEFT: Andrew Galvan adjusts the flag before the Entry-Level Electrical Lineworker Rodeo on April 4 at the Nueces Electric Cooperative in Robstown.

BOTTOM LEFT: DMC students gear up for the event. Del Mar aligned with NEC to develop the program.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Judge John Guzman (right) speaks to DMC student Christopher Luzania regarding his results.

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DENTISTRY FROM PAGE 1

requirements for who is qualified. It depends on the patient. An initial examination is done to see where the patients are at with their oral healthcare. After this first exam, the clinic will let the patient know if they are qualified to continue with the dental hygiene treatment.

Also, if there is an issue that is medically stopping the patient from being treated, the clinic reaches out to the patient's healthcare physician to let them know they are trying to provide the patient with

dental hygiene care. The patient can get a release form from the physician allowing the patient to continue with the dental hygiene treatment.

Martinez emphasized that the services for dental hygiene are preventive services only. If the patients want actual dental services done, for example fillings or extractions, they will have to go to a dentist.

FREE DENTAL CARE

SERVICES OFFERED: Medical history review, oral cancer screenings, X-rays, fluoride treatment and other preventive care services

INFORMATION: Call 361-698-2854 for an appointment

Martinez said the program has a social media page that is used to let the community know what they are doing or what they are offering. They use it to show off all the technology that the state-of-the-art facility has to offer as well. It also provides the community with an updated schedule for the facility and lets them know about closures due to holidays or even

campus closures for any given reason.

The clinic is in Health Science Building 1 at the Windward Campus. Spring hours for the Dental Hygiene Clinic are from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to noon Friday.

To schedule an appointment with Amanda Canales, patient care assistant, call 361-698-2854 or for more information visit <https://www.delmar.edu/offices/dental-clinic/index.html>. The program also has a Facebook page, Del Mar College Dental Programs.

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